

Ms. Dilke from
MILTON'S *his success friend*

J. Keats
PARADISE LOST.

A NEW EDITION.

Adorned with Beautiful Plates.

VOLUME II.



EDINBURGH

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ARGUMENT.

RAPHAEL continues to relate how Michael and Gabriel were sent forth to battle against Satan and his Angels. The first fight described; Satan and his powers retire under night: He calls a council, invents devilish engines, which, in the second day's fight put Michael and his Angels to some disorder; but they at length, pulling up mountains, overwhelmed both the force and machines of Satan: yet the tumult not so ending, God on the third day sends Messiah, his Son, for whom he had reserved the glory of that victory: He, in the power of his Father, coming to the place, and causing all his legions to stand still on either side, with his chariot and thunder driving into the midst of his enemies, pursues them unable to resist towards the wall of Heaven; which opening, they leap down with horror and confusion into the place of punishment prepared for them in the deep: Messiah returns with triumph to his Father.

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PARADISE LOST.

BOOK VI.

ALL night the dreadless Angel, unpursued, [morn,
 Through Heaven's wide champain held his way; till
 Waked by the circling hours, with rosy hand
 Unbarr'd the gates of light. There is a cave
 Within the mount of God, fast by his throne, 5
 Where light and darkness in perpetual round
 Lodge and dislodge by turns, which makes thro' Heaven
 Grateful vicissitude, like day and night;
 Light issues forth, and at the other door
 Obséquious darkness enters, till her hour 10
 To veil the Heaven, tho' darkness there might well
 Seem twilight here: And now went forth the morn
 Such as in highest Heaven, array'd in gold
 Empyrean: from before her vanish'd night,
 Shot through with orient beams; when all the plain
 Cover'd with thick embattled squadrons bright, 16
 Chariots, and flaming arms, and fiery steeds,
 Reflecting blaze on blaze, first met his view:
 War he perceived, war in procinct, and found
 Already known what he for news had thought 20
 To have reported; Gladly then he mix'd
 Among those friendly Powers, who him received

'Reluctant' with its original and no clear meaning combined and worn together, with all its shades of implication has a powerful effect.

PARADISE LOST.

Book VI.

With joy and acclamations loud, that one,
That of so many myriads fallen, yet one
Return'd not lost: On to the sacred hill 25
They led him high applauded, and present
Before the seat supreme: from whence a voice
From midst a golden cloud, thus mild was heard.

Servant of God, well done; well hast thou fought
The better fight, who single hast maintain'd 30
Against revolted multitudes the cause
Of truth, in word mightier than they in arms;
And for the testimony of truth hast borne
Universal reproach, far worse to bear
Than violence; for this was all thy care 35
To stand approved in sight of God, though worlds
Judged thee perverse: The easier conquest now
Remains thee, aided by this host of friends,
Back on thy foes more glorious to return
Than scorn'd thou didst depart; and to subdue 40
By force, who reason for their law refuse,
Right reason for their law, and for their King
Messiah, who by right of merit reigns.
Go, Michael, of celestial armies prince,
And thou in military prowess next, 45
Gabriel, lead forth to battle these my sons
Invincible; lead forth my armed Saints
By thousands and by millions ranged for fight,
Equal in number to that godless crew
Rebellious; them with fire and hostile arms 50
Fearless assault; and to the brow of Heaven
Pursuing, drive them out from God and bliss,
Into their place of punishment, the gulf
Of Tartarus, which ready opens wide
His fiery Chaos to receive their fall. 55

So spake the Sovereign Voice, and clouds began
To darken all the hill, and smoke to roll
In dusky wreaths, reluctant flames, the sign

Of wrath awak'd ; nor with less dread the loud
Ethereal trumpet from on high 'gan blow ; 60
At which command the Powers militant,
That stood for Heaven, in mighty quadrate join'd
Of union irresistible, moved on
In silence their bright legions, to the sound
Of instrumental harmony, that breathed 65
Heroic ardour to adventurous deeds
Under their god-like leaders, in the cause
Of God and his Messiah. On they move
Indissolubly firm ; nor obvious hill,
Nor straitening vale, nor wood, nor stream, divides 70
Their perfect ranks ; for high above the ground
Their march was, and the passive air upbore
Their nimble tread ; as when the total kind
Of birds, in orderly array on wing
Came summon'd over Eden to receive 75
Their names of thee ; so over many a tract
Of Heaven they march'd, and many a province wide,
Tenfold the length of this terrene : At last,
Far in the horizon to the north appear'd
From skirt to skirt a fiery region, stretch'd 80
In battailous aspect, and nearer view
Bristled with upright beams innumerable
Of rigid spears, and helmets throng'd, and shields
Various, with boastful argument pourtray'd,
The banded Powers of Satan hasting on 85
With furious expedition ; for they ween'd
That self-same day by fight, or by surprise,
To win the mount of God, and on his throne
To set the Envier of his state, the proud
Aspirer ; but their thoughts proved fond and vain 90
In the mid-way : Though strange to us, it seem'd
At first, that Angel should with Angel war,
And in fierce hosting meet, who wont to meet
So oft in festivals of joy and love

Unanimous, as sons of one great Sire, 95
 Hymning the Eternal Father: But the shout
 Of battle now began, and rushing sound
 Of onset ended soon each milder thought.
 High in the midst, exalted as a God,
 The Apostate in his sun-bright chariot sat, 100
 Idol of majesty divine, inclosed
 With flaming Cherubim and golden shields;
 Then lighted from his gorgeous throne, for now
 'Twixt host and host but narrow space was left,
 A dreadful interval, and front to front 105
 Presented stood in terrible array
 Of hideous length: Before the cloudy van,
On the rough edge of battle ere it join'd,
Satan, with vast and haughty strides advanced,
Came towering, arm'd in adamant and gold: 110
 Abdiel that sight indured not, where he stood
 Among the mightiest, bent on highest deeds,
 And thus his own undaunted heart explores.

O Heaven! that such resemblance of the Highest
 Should yet remain, where faith and realty 115
 Remain not: Wherefore should not strength and might
 There fail where virtue fails, or weakest prove
 Where boldest, though to sight unconquerable?
 His puissance, trusting in the Almighty's aid,
 I mean to try, whose reason I have tried 120
 Unsound and false; nor is it ought but just,
 That he who in debate of truth hath won,
 Should win in arms, in both disputes alike
 Victor; though brutish that contest and foul,
 When reason hath to deal with force, yet so 125
 Most reason is that reason overcome.

So pondering, and from his armed peers
 Forth stepping opposite, half way he met
 His daring foe, at this prevention more
 Incensed, and thus securely him defied. 130

Proud, art thou met? thy hope was to have reach'd
The height of thy aspiring unopposed,
The throne of God unguarded, and his side
Abandon'd at the terror of thy power
Or potent tongue: Fool, not to think how vain 135
Against the Omnipotent to rise in arms;
Who out of smallest things could, without end,
Have raised incessant armies to defeat
Thy folly; or with solitary hand,
Reaching beyond all limit, at one blow 140
Unaided, could have finish'd thee, and whelm'd
Thy legions under darkness: But thou seest
All are not of thy train; there be who faith
Prefer, and piety to God, though then
To thee not visible, when I alone 145
Seem'd in thy world erroneous to dissent
From all: My sect thou seest; now learn too late
(How few sometimes may know, when thousands err.
Whom the grand Foe, with scornful eye askance,
Thus answer'd. Ill for thee, but in wish'd hour 150
Of my revenge, first sought for, thou returnst,
From flight, seditious Angel, to receive
Thy merited reward, the first assay
Of this right hand provoked, since first that tongue,
Inspired with contradiction, durst oppose 155
A third part of the Gods, in synod met
Their deities to assert, who, while they feel
Vigour divine within them, can allow
Omnipotence to none. But well thou comest
Before thy fellows, ambitious to win 160
From me some plume, that thy success may show
Destruction to the rest: This pause between
(Unanswer'd lest thou boast) to let thee know,
At first I thought that Liberty and Heaven
To heavenly souls had been all one; but now 165
I see that most through sloth had rather serve,

Ministering Spirits, train'd up in feast and song;
 Such hast thou arm'd, the minstrelsy of Heaven,
 Servility with freedom to contend,
 As both their deeds compared this day shall prove. 170

To whom in brief thus Abdiel stern replied.
 Apostate! still thou errst, nor end will find
 Of erring, from the path of truth remote;
 Unjustly thou depravest it with the name
 Of servitude to serve whom God ordains, 175
 Or Nature; God and Nature bid the same,
 When he who rules is worthiest, and excels
 Them whom he governs. This is servitude
 To serve the unwise, or him who hath rebell'd
 Against his worthier, as thine now serve thee, 180
 Thyself not free, but to thyself enthrall'd;
 Yet lewdly darest our ministering upbraid.
 Reign thou in Hell thy kingdom; let me serve
 In Heaven God ever blest, and his divine
 Behests obey, worthiest to be obey'd; 185
 Yet chains in Hell, not realms, expect: Meanwhile
 From me return'd, as erst thou saidst, from flight,
 This greeting on thy impious crest receive.

So saying, a noble stroke he lifted high,
 Which hung not, but so swift with tempest fell 190
 On the proud crest of Satan, that no sight,
 Nor motion of swift thought, less could his shield
 Such ruin intercept: Ten paces huge
 He back recoil'd; the tenth on bended knee
 His massy spear upstay'd; as if on earth 195
 Winds under ground, or waters forcing way,
 Sidelong had push'd a mountain from his seat,
 Half sunk with all his pines. Amazement seized
 The rebel thrones, but greater rage, to see
 Thus foil'd their mightiest; our joy fill'd, and shout,
 Presage of victory, and fierce desire 201
 Of battle: Whereat Michael bid sound

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The archangel trumpet: through the vast of Heaven
It sounded, and the faithful armies rung
Hosanna to the Highest: Nor stood at gaze 205
The adverse legions, nor less hideous join'd
The horrid shock. Now storming fury rose,
And clamour such as heard in Heaven till now
Was never; arms on armour clashing bray'd
Horrible discord, and the madding wheels 210
Of brazen chariots rag'd; dire was the noise
Of conflict; overhead the dismal hiss
Of fiery darts in flaming volleys flew,
And flying vaulted either host with fire.
So under fiery cope together rush'd 215
Both battles main, with ruinous assault
And inextinguishable rage: All Heaven
Resounded; and had Earth been then, all Earth
Had to her centre shook. What wonder? when
Millions of fierce encountering Angels fought 220
On either side, the least of whom could wield
These elements, and arm him with the force
Of all their regions: How much more of power
Army against army numberless to raise
Dreadful combustion warring, and disturb, 225
Though not destroy, their happy native seat;
Had not the Eternal King Omnipotent
From his strong hold of Heaven, high overruled
And limited their might; though number'd such
As each divided legion might have seem'd 230
A numerous host; in strength each armed hand
A legion; led in fight, yet leader seem'd
Each warrior single as in chief, expert
When to advance, or stand, or turn the sway
Of battle, open when, and when to close 235
The ridges of grim war: No thought of flight,
None of retreat, no unbecoming deed
That argued fear; each on himself relied,

As only in his arm the moment lay
 Of victory: Deeds of eternal fame 240
 Were done, but infinite; for wide was spread
 That war, and various; sometimes on firm ground
 A standing fight, then, soaring on main wing,
 Tormented all the air; all air seem'd then
 Conflicting fire. Long time in even scale 245
 The battle hung; till Satan, who that day
 Prodigious Power had shown, and met in arms
 No equal, ranging through the dire attack
 Of fighting Seraphim confused, at length

Saw where the sword of Michael smote, and fell'd 250

Squadrons at once; with huge two-handed sway

Brandish'd aloft, the horrid edge came down

Wide wasting; such destruction to withstand

He hasted, and opposed the rocky orb

Of tenfold adamant, his ample shield, 255

A vast circumference: At his approach

The great Archangel from his warlike toil
 Surceased, and glad, as hoping here to end
 Intestine war in Heaven, the Arch-foe subdued,
 Or captive dragg'd in chains, with hostile frown 260
 And visage all inflamed first thus began.

Author of evil, unknown till thy revolt,
 Unnamed in Heaven, now plenteous, as thou seest
 These acts of hateful strife, hateful to all,
 Though heaviest by just measure on thyself, 265
 And thy adherents: How hast thou disturb'd
 Heaven's blessed peace, and into nature brought
 Misery, uncreated till the crime
 Of thy rebellion! How hast thou instill'd
 Thy malice into thousands, once upright 270
 And faithful, now proved false! But think not here
 To trouble holy rest; Heaven casts thee out
 From all her confines. Heaven, the seat of bliss,
 Brooks not the works of violence and war.

Hence then, and evil go with thee along, 275
Thy offspring, to the place of evil, Hell,
'Thou and thy wicked crew; there mingle broils,
Ere this avenging sword begin thy doom,
Or some more sudden vengeance, wing'd from God,
Precipitate thee with augmented pain. 280

So spake the Prince of Angels; to whom thus
The Adversary. Nor think thou with wind
Of airy threats to awe whom yet with deeds
Thou canst not. Hast thou turn'd the least of these
To flight, or if to fall, but that they rise 285
Unvanquish'd, easier to transact with me
That thou shouldst hope, imperious, and with threats
To chase me hence? Err not, that so shall end
The strife which thou callst evil, but we style
The strife of glory; which we mean to win, 290
Or turn this Heaven itself into the Hell
Thou fablest; here however to dwell free,
If not to reign: Meanwhile thy utmost force,
And join him named Almighty to thy aid,
I fly not, but have sought thee far and nigh. 295

They ended parle, and both address'd for fight
Unspeakable; for who, though with the tongue
Of Angels, can relate, or to what things
Likened on earth conspicuous, that may lift
Human imagination to such height 300
Of godlike power? for likest Gods they seem'd,
Stood they or moved, in stature, motion, arms,
Fit to decide the empire of great Heaven.
Now waved their fiery swords, and in the air
Made horrid circles; two broad suns their shields 305
Blazed opposite, while Expectation stood
In horror; from each hand with speed retired,
Where erst was thickest fight, the angelic throng,
And left large field, unsafe within the wind
Of such commotion; such as, to set forth 310

Great things by small, if nature's concord broke,
 Among the constellations war were sprung,
Two planets rushing from aspect malign
Of fiercest opposition in mid-sky
Should combat, and their jarring spheres confound.
 Together both with next to almighty arm 316
 Uplifted imminent, one stroke they aim'd
 That might determine, and not need repeat,
 As not of power at once; nor odds appear'd
 In might or swift prevention: but the sword 320
 Of Michael, from the armoury of God,
 Was given him temper'd so, that neither keen
 Nor solid might resist that edge: it met.
 The sword of Satan with steep force to smite
 Descending, and in half cut sheer; nor stay'd, 325
 But with swift wheel reverse, deep entering, shared
 All his right side: then Satan first knew pain,
 And writhed him to and fro convolved; so sore
The griding sword with discontinuous wound
Pass'd thro' him; but the ethereal substance closed,
 Not long divisible; and from the gash 331
 A stream of nectarous humour issuing flow'd
 Sanguine, such as celestial Spirits may bleed,
 And all his armour stain'd, ere while so bright.
 Forthwith on all sides to his aid was run 335
 By Angels many and strong, who interposed
 Defence, while others bore him on their shields
 Back to his chariot, where it stood retired
 From off the files of war; there they him laid
 Gnashing for anguish, and despite, and shame, 340
 To find himself not matchless, and his pride
 Humbled by such rebuke, so far beneath
 His confidence to equal God in power.
 Yet soon he heal'd; for Spirits that live throughout
 Vital in every part, not as frail man 345
 In entrails, heart or head, liver or reins,

Cannot but by annihilating die ;
Nor in their liquid texture mortal wound
Receive, no more than can the fluid air :
All heart they live, all head, all eye, all ear, 350
All intellect, all sense ; and, as they please,
They limb themselves, and colour, shape, or size,
Assume, as likes them best, condense or rare.

Meanwhile in other parts like deeds deserved
Memorial, where the might of Gabriel fought, 365
And with fierce ensigns pierced the deep array
Of Moloch, furious king ; who him defied,
And at his chariot wheels to drag him bound
Threaten'd, nor from the Holy One of Heaven
Refrain'd his tongue blasphemous ; but anon, 360
Down cloven to the waist, with shatter'd arms
And uncouth pain fled bellowing. On each wing
Uriel and Raphael his vaunting foe,
Though huge, and in a rock of diamond arm'd,
Vanquish'd Adramelech and Asmaidi, 365
Two potent thrones, that to be less than Gods
Disdain'd, but meaner thoughts learn'd in their flight,
Mangled with ghastly wounds through plate and mail.
Nor stood unmindful Abdiel to annoy
The atheist crew, but with redoubled blow 370
Ariel and Arioch, and the violence
Of Ramiel, scorch'd and blasted, overthrew.
I might relate of thousands, and their names
Eternize here on earth ; but those elect
Angels, contented with their fame in Heaven, 375
Seek not the praise of men : the other sort,
In might though wonderous, and in acts of war,
Nor of renown less eager, yet by doom
Cancell'd from Heaven and sacred memory,
Nameless in dark oblivion let them dwell. 380
For strength from truth divided and from just,
Illaudable, nought merits but dispraise

And ignominy, yet to glory aspires
 Vain-glorious, and through infamy seeks fame :
 Therefore eternal silence be their doom. 385

And now their mightiest quell'd, the battle swerved,
 With many an inroad goar'd ; deformed rout
 Enter'd, and foul disorder ; all the ground
 With shiver'd armour strewn, and on a heap
 Chariot and charioteer lay overturn'd, 390

And fiery foaming steeds ; what stood, recoil'd
 O'erwearied, through the faint Satanic host
 Defensive scarce, or with pale fear surprised,
 Then first with fear surprised and sense of pain,
 Fled ignominious, to such evil brought 395

By sin of disobedience, till that hour
 Not liable to fear, or flight or pain.
 Far otherwise, the inviolable Saints
 In cubic phalanx firm advanced entire,
 Invulnerable, impenetrably arm'd ; 400

Such high advantages their innocence
 Gave them above their foes, not to have sinn'd,
 Not to have disobey'd ; in fight they stood
 Unwearied, unobnoxious to be pain'd 404
 By wound, though from their place by violence moved.

Now night her course began, and over Heaven
 Inducing darkness, grateful truce imposed,
 And silence on the odious din of war :
 Under her cloudy covert both retired,

Victor and vanquish'd. On the foughten field 410
 Michael and his angels prevalent

Incamping, placed in guard their watches round,
 Cherubic waving fires : on the other part
 Satan with his rebellious disappear'd,
 Far in the dark dislodged ; and, void of rest, 415
 His potentates to council call'd by night ;
 And in the midst thus undismay'd began.

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O now in danger tried, now known in arms
Not to be overpower'd, companions dear,
Found worthy not of liberty alone, 420
Too mean pretence, but, what we more affect,
Honour, dominion, glory, and renown ;
Who have sustain'd one day in doubtful fight
(And if one day, why not eternal days ?)
What Heaven's Lord had powerfulest to send 425
Against us from about his throne, and judg'd
Sufficient to subdue us to his will,
But proves not so : then fallible, it seems,
Of future we may deem him, though till now
Omniscient thought. True is, less firmly arm'd, 430
Some disadvantage we endured and pain,
Till now not known ; but known, as soon contemn'd ;
Since now we find this our empyreal form
Incapable of mortal injury,
Imperishable, and, though pierced with wound, 435
Soon closing, and by native vigour heal'd.
Of evil then so small, as easy think
The remedy ; perhaps more valid arms,
Weapons more violent, when next we meet,
May serve to better us, and worse our foes, 440
Or equal what between us made the odds,
In nature none ; if other hidden cause
Left them superior, while we can preserve
Unhurt our minds and understanding sound,
Due search and consultation will disclose. 445
He sat ; and in the assembly next upstood
Nisroch, of Principalities the prime ;
As one he stood escaped from cruel fight,
Sore toil'd, his riven arms to havoc hewn,
And cloudy in aspect thus answering spake. 450
Deliverer from new Lords, leader to free
Enjoyment of our right as Gods ! yet hard
For Gods, and too unequal work we find,

Against unequal arms to fight in pain,
 Against unpain'd, impassive; from which evil 455
 Ruin must needs ensue; for what avails
 Valour or strength, though matchless, quell'd with pain
 Which all subdues, and makes remiss the hands
 Of mightiest? Sense of pleasure we may well
 Spare out of life perhaps, and not repine, 460
 But live content, which is the calmest life:
 But pain is perfect misery, the worst
 Of evils, and excessive, overturns
 All patience. He who therefore can invent
 With what more forcible we may offend 465
 Our yet unwounded enemies, or arm
 Ourselves with like defence, to me deserves
 No less than for deliverance what we owe.

Whereto, with look composed, Satan replied.
 Not uninvented that, which thou aright 470
 Believest so main to our success, I bring;
 Which of us who beholds the bright surface
 Of this ethereous mould whereon we stand,
 This continent of spacious Heaven adorn'd
 With plant, fruit, flower ambrosial, gems and gold; 475
 Whose eye so superficially surveys
 These things, as not to mind from whence they grow
 Deep under ground, materials dark and crude,
Of spiritous and fiery spume, till, touch'd
With Heaven's ray, and temper'd, they shoot forth 480
So beauteous, opening to the ambient light.
These in their dark nativity the deep
Shall yield us, pregnant with internal flame,
Which, into hollow engines, long and round,
Thick ramm'd, at the other bore with touch of fire 485
Dilated and infuriate, shall send forth
From far, with thundering noise, among our foes
Such implements of mischief, as shall dash
To pieces, and overwhelm whatever stands

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Adverse, that they shall fear we have disarm'd 490
The Thunderer of his only dreaded bolt.

Nor long shall be our labour; yet ere dawn,
Effect shall end our wish. Meanwhile revive;
Abandon fear; to strength and counsel join'd
Think nothing hard, much less to be despair'd. 495

He ended, and his words their drooping cheer
Enlighten'd, and their languish'd hope revived.
The invention all admired, and each, how he
To be the inventor miss'd, so easy it seem'd [thought
Once found, which yet unfound most would have
Impossible: Yet, haply, of thy race 501

In future days, if malice should abound,
Some one intent on mischief, or inspired
With devilish machination, might devise
Like instrument to plague the sons of men 505
For sin, on war and mutual slaughter bent.

Forthwith from council to the work they flew;
None arguing stood; innumerable hands
Were ready; in a moment up they turn'd
Wide the celestial soil, and saw beneath 510

The originals of nature in their crude
Conception; sulphurous and nitrous foam
They found, they mingled, and, with subtle art,
Concocted and adusted they reduced
To blackest grain, and into store convey'd: 515

Part hidden veins digg'd up (nor hath this earth
Entrails unlike) of mineral and stone,
Whereof to found their engines and their balls
Of missive ruin; part incentive reed
Provide, pernicious with one touch to fire. 520
So all ere day-spring, under conscious night,
Secret they finish'd, and in order set,
With silent circumspection unespy'd.

Now when fair morn orient in Heaven appear'd,
Up-rose the victor Angels, and to arms 525

The matin trumpet sung : in arms they stood
 Of golden panoply, refulgent host,
 Soon banded ; others from the dawning hills
 Look'd round, and scouts each coast light-arm'd scour,
 Each quarter, to descry the distant foe, 530
 Where lodged, or whither fled, or if for fight,
 In motion or in halt : Him soon they met
 Under spread ensigns moving nigh, in slow
 But firm battalion ; back with speediest sail
 Zophiel, of Cherubim the swiftest wing, 535
 Came flying, and in mid air aloud thus cried.

Arm, warriors, arm for fight, the foe at hand,
 Whom fled we thought, will save us long pursuit
 This day ; fear not this flight ; so thick a cloud
 He comes, and settled in his face I see 540
Sad resolution, and secure. Let each
 His adamantine coat gird well, and each
 Fit well his helm, gripe fast his orb'd shield
 Borne even or high ; for this day will pour down,
 If I conjecture aught, no drizzling shower, 545
 But rattling storm of arrows barb'd with fire.

So warn'd he them, aware themselves, and soon
 In order, quit of all impediment ;
 Instant without disturb they took alarm,
 And onward move embattled : When behold ! 550
Not distant far with heavy pace the foe
Approaching gross and huge, in hollow cube
Training his devilish enginery, impaled
On every side with shadowing squadrons deep,
To hide the fraud. At interview both stood 555
 Awhile ; but suddenly at head appear'd
 Satan, and thus was heard commanding loud.

Vanguard, to right and left the front unfold ;
 That all may see who hate us, how we seek
 Peace and composure, and with open breast 560
 Stand ready to receive them, if they like

Our overture, and turn not back perverse ;
But that I doubt ; however witness Heaven !
Heaven, witness thou anon ! while we discharge
Freely our part ; ye who appointed stand, 565
Do as ycu have in charge, and briefly touch
What we propound, and loud that all may hear.

So scoffing in ambiguous words, he scarce
Had ended ; when to right and left the front
Divided, and to either flank retired : 570
Which to our eyes discover'd, new and strange,
A triple mounted row of pillars laid
On wheels (for like to pillars most they seem'd,
Or hollow'd bodies made of oak or fir,
With branches lopt, in wood or mountain fell'd) 575
Brass, iron, stony mould, had not their mouths
With hideous orifice gaped on us wide,
Portending hollow truce : At each behind
A Seraph stood, and in his hand a reed
Stood waving tipt with fire : while we, suspense, 580
Collected stood within our thoughts amused,
Not long ; for sudden all at once their reeds
Put forth, and to a narrow vent applied
With nicest touch. Immediate in a flame, 584
But soon obscured with smoke, all Heaven appear'd,
From those deep-throated engines belch'd, whose roar
Embowell'd with outrageous noise the air,
And all her entrails tore, disgorging foul
Their devilish glut, chain'd thunderbolts and hail
Of iron globes ; which, on the victor host 590
Levell'd, with such impetuous fury smote,
That, whom they hit, none on their feet might stand,
Though standing else as rocks, but down they fell
By thousands, Angel on Arch-Angel roll'd ;
The sooner for their arms ; unarm'd, they might 595
Have easily, as Spirits, evaded swift
By quick contraction or remove ; but now

Foul dissipation follow'd and forced rout ;
 Nor served it to relax their serried files.
 What should they do ? If on they rush'd, repulse 600
 Repeated, and indecent overthrow
 Doubled, would render them yet more despised,
 And to their foes a laughter ; for in view
 Stood rank'd of Seraphim another row,
 In posture to displode their second tire 605
 Of thunder : Back defeated to return
 They worse abhorr'd. Satan beheld their plight,
 And to his mates thus in derision call'd.

O Friends, why come not on these victors proud ?
 Ere while they fierce were coming : and when we 610
 To entertain them fair with open front
 And breast (what could we more) propounded terms
 Of composition, straight they changed their minds,
 Flew off, and into strange vagaries fell,
 As they would dance ; yet for a dance they seem'd 615
 Somewhat extravagant and wild, perhaps
 For joy of offer'd peace : But I suppose,
 If our proposals once again were heard,
 We should compel them to a quick result.

To whom thus Belial in like gamesome mood. 620
 Leader ! the terms we sent were terms of weight,
 Of hard contents, and full of force urged home ;
 Such as we might perceive amused them all,
 And stumbled many : who receives them right,
 Had need from head to foot well understand ; 625
 Not understood, this gift they have besides,
 They show us when our foes walk not upright.

So they among themselves in pleasant vein
 Stood scoffing, heighten'd in their thoughts beyond
 All doubt of victory : Eternal Might 630
 To match with their inventions they presumed
 So easy, and of his thunder made a scorn,
 And all his host derided, while they stood

Awhile in trouble : But they stood not long ;
Rage prompted them at length, and found them arms
Against such hellish mischief fit to oppose. 636
Forthwith (behold the excellence, the power
Which God hath in his mighty Angels placed !)
Their arms away they threw, and to the hills
(For earth hath this variety from Heaven 640
Of pleasure situate in hill and dale)
Light as the lightning glimpse they ran, they flew ;
From their foundations loosening to and fro,
They pluck'd the seated hills with all their load,
Rocks, waters, woods, and by the shaggy tops 645
Uplifting bore them in their hands : Amaze,
Besure, and terror, seized the rebel host,
When coming towards them so dread they saw
The bottom of the mountains upward turn'd ;
Till on those cursed engines' triple-row 650
They saw them whelm'd, and all their confidence
Under the weight of mountains buried deep ;
Themselves invaded next, and on their heads
Main promontories flung, which in the air 654
Came shadowing, and oppress'd whole legions arm'd ;
Their armour help'd their harm, crush'd in and bruised
Into their substance pent, which wrought them pain
Implacable, and many a dolorous groan ;
Long struggling underneath, ere they could wind
Out of such prison, though Spirits of purest light, 660
Purest at first, now gross by sinning grown,
The rest, in imitation, to like arms
Betook them, and the neighbouring hills uptore ;
So hills amid the air encounter'd hills
Hurl'd to and fro with jaculation dire, 665
That under ground they fought in dismal shade ;
Infernal noise ; war seem'd a civil game
To this uproar ; horrid confusion heap'd
Upon confusion rose : And now all Heaven

Then shall thy Saints unmix'd, and from the impure
Far separate, circling thy holy mount,
Unfeigned Halleluiahs to thee sing,
Hymns of high praise, and I among them Chief. 745

So said, he o'er his sceptre bowing, rose
From the right hand of Glory where he sat;
And the third sacred morn began to shine,
Dawning through Heaven: Forth rush'd with whirl-
The chariot of Paternal Deity, [wind sound
Flashing thick flames, wheel within wheel undrawn,
Itself instinct with Spirit, but convoy'd 752

By four Cherubic shapes; four faces each
Had wonderous; as with stars, their bodies all,
And wings, were set with eyes; with eyes, the wheels
Of beril; and careering fires between: 756

Over their heads a crystal firmament;
Where, on a sapphire Throne, inlaid with pure
Amber, and colours of the showery Arch,
He, in celestial panoply all arm'd 760

Of radiant Urim, work divinely wrought!
Ascended: at his right hand, Victory
Sat eagle-wing'd; beside him hung his bow,
And quiver with three-bolted Thunder stored:
And from about him fierce Effusion rowl'd 765

Of smoke, and bickering flame, and sparkles dire.
Attended with ten thousand thousand Saints,
He onward came; far off his coming shone,
And twenty thousand, (I their number heard,)
Chariots of God, half on each hand, were seen. 770

He on the wings of Cherub rode sublime
On the crystalline sky, in sapphire, throned,
Illustrious far and wide; but by his own
First seen, them unexpected joy surprised,
When the great ensign of Messiah blazed, 775
Aloft by Angels borne, his sign in Heaven:
Under whose conduct Michael soon reduced

His army, circumfused on either wing,
Under their head imbodyed all in one.
Before him Power Divine his way prepared ; 780
At his command the uprooted hills retired
Each to his place; they heard his voice, and went
Obsequious; Heaven his wonted face renew'd,
And with fresh flowerets hill and valley smiled.
This saw his hapless foes, but stood obdured, 785
And to rebellious fight rallied their Powers
Insensate! hope conceiving from despair;
In heavenly Spirits could such perverseness dwell?
But to convince the proud what signs avail,
Or wonders move the obdurate to relent ; 790
They harden'd more, by what might most reclaim,
Grieving to see his glory, at the sight
Took envy; and aspiring to his height,
Stood re-embattled fierce; by force, or fraud,
Weening to prosper, and at length prevail 795
Against God, and Messiah; or to fall
In universal ruin last; and now
To final battle drew, disdaining flight,
Or faint retreat; when the great Son of God
To all his hosts on either hand thus spake, 800
Stand still in bright array, ye Saints! stand here
Ye Angels arm'd; this day from battle rest;
Faithful hath been your warfare, and of God
Accepted, fearless in his righteous cause;
And as ye have received, so have ye done, 805
Invincibly. But of this cursed crew
The punishment to other hand belongs;
Vengeance is his, or whose he sole appoints.
Number to this day's work is not ordain'd,
Nor multitude; stand only, and behold 810
God's indignation on these Godless pour'd
By me; not you, but me, they have despised,
Yet envied; against me is all their rage,

Because the Father, to whom in Heaven supreme
Kingdom, and power, and glory, appertains, 815
Hath honour'd me, according to his will.

Therefore to me their doom he hath assign'd:
That they may have their wish, to try with me
In battle which the stronger proves, they all,
Or I alone against them; since by strength 820
They measure all, of other excellence
Not emulous, nor care who them excels;
Nor other strife with them do I vouchsafe.

So spake the Son, and into terror changed
His countenance, too severe to be beheld, 825
And full of wrath bent on his enemies.

At once the Four spread out their starry wings,
With dreadful shade contiguous, and the orbs
Of his fierce chariot rowl'd, as with the sound
Of torrent floods, or of a numerous host. 830

He on his impious foes right onward drove,
Gloomy as night; under his burning wheels
The stedfast empyrean shook throughout;
All but the throne itself of God. Full soon
Among them he arrived; in his right hand 835

Grasping ten thousand thunders, which he sent
Before him, such as in their souls infix'd
Plagues: they, astonish'd, all resistance lost,
All courage; down their idle weapons dropp'd:
O'er shields, and helms, and helmed heads he rode
Of Thrones, and mighty Seraphim prostrate; 841
That wish'd the mountains now might be again
Thrown on them as a shelter from his ire.

Nor less on either side tempestuous fell
His arrows, from the fourfold-visaged Four, 845
Distinct with eyes; and from the living wheels
Distinct alike with multitude of eyes;
One Spirit in them ruled, and every eye
Glared lightning, and shot forth pernicious fire



D. Lisser Sculp.

Book VIth 864.

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Among the accurs'd, that wither'd all their strength,
And of their wonted vigour left them drain'd, 851
Exhausted, spiritless, afflicted, fallen.

Yet, half his strength he put not forth, but check'd
His thunder in mid volley; for he meant
Not to destroy, but root them out of Heaven: 855
The overthrown he raised, and as a herd
Of goats, or timorous flock, together throng'd,
Drove them before him thunderstruck, pursued
With terrors, and with furies, to the bounds
And crystal wall of Heaven; which, opening wide,
Rowl'd inward, and a spacious gap disclosed 861
Into the wasteful deep: the monstrous sight
Struck them with horror backward; but far worse
Urged them behind; headlong themselves they threw
Down from the verge of Heaven; eternal wrath 865
Burnt after them to the bottomless pit.

Hell heard the unsufferable noise: Hell saw
Heaven ruining from Heaven, and would have fled
Affrighted; but strict fate had cast too deep
Her dark foundations, and too fast had bound. 870
Nine days they fell; confounded Chaos roar'd,
And felt tenfold confusion in their fall,
Through his wild anarchy, so huge a rout
Encumber'd him with ruin! Hell at last
Yawning received them whole, and on them closed:
Hell, their fit habitation fraught with fire 876
Unquenchable, the house of woe and pain.
Disburden'd Heaven rejoiced, and soon repair'd
Her mural breach, returning whence it rowl'd.
Sole victor, from the expulsion of his foes, 880
Messiah his triumphal chariot turn'd:
To meet him all his Saints, who silent stood
Eye-witnesses of his almighty acts,
With jubilee advanced; and, as they went,
Shaded with branching palm, each order bright 885

ARGUMENT.

RAPHAEL, at the request of Adam, relates how and wherefore this world was first created; that God, after the expelling of Satan and his Angels out of Heaven, declared his pleasure to create another world, and other creatures to dwell therein; sends his Son with glory and attendance of Angels to perform the work of creation in six days: the Angels celebrate with hymns the performance thereof, and his reascension to Heaven.

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PARADISE LOST.

BOOK VII.

DESCEND from Heaven, Urania, by that name
 If rightly thou art call'd, whose voice divine
 Following, above the Olympian hill I soar,
 Above the flight of Pagasean wing.
 The meaning, not the name, I call: for thou, 5
 Nor of the Muses nine, nor on the top
 Of old Olympus dwellst; but, heavenly born,
 Before the hills appear'd, or fountain flow'd,
 Thou with eternal Wisdom didst converse,
 Wisdom thy sister, and with her didst play 10
 In presence of the Almighty Father, pleas'd
 With thy celestial song. Up-led by thee,
 Into the Heaven of Heavens I have presumed,
 An earthly guest, and drawn empyreal air,
 Thy tempering; with like safety guided down, 15
 Return me to my native element;
Lest from this flying steed unrein'd, (as once
Bellerophon, though from a lower clime),
Dismounted, on the Aleian field I fall,
Erroneous there to wander and forlorn. 20
 Half yet remains unsung, but narrower bound
 Within the visible diurnal sphere;

Standing on Earth, not rapt above the pole,
 More safe I sing with mortal voice, unchanged
 To hoarse or mute, though fallen on evil days, 25
 On evil days though fallen, and evil tongues;
 In darkness, and with dangers compass'd round,
 And solitude; yet not alone, while thou
 Visitst my slumbers nightly, or when morn
 Purples the east; still govern thou my song, 30
 Urania: and fit audience find, though few.
 But drive far off the barbarous dissonance
Of Bacchus and his revellers: the race
Of that wild rout that tore the Thracian bard
In Rhodope, where woods, and rocks, had ears 35
To rapture, till the savage clamour drown'd
Both harp and voice; nor could the Muse defend
Her Son. So fail not thou, who thee implores:
 For thou art heavenly, she an empty dream.

Say Goddess, what ensued when Raphael, 40
 The affable Archangel, had forewarn'd
 Adam, by dire example, to beware
 Apostacy, by what befel in Heaven
 To those Apostates; lest the like befall
 In Paradise to Adam or his race, 45
 Charged not to touch the interdicted tree,
 If they transgress, and slight that sole command,
 So easily obey'd amid the choice
 Of all tastes else to please their appetite,
 Though wandering. He, with his consorted Eve, 50
 The story heard attentive, and was fill'd
 With admiration, and deep muse, to hear
 Of things so high and strange; things, to their thought
 So unimaginable, as hate in Heaven,
 And war so near the peace of God in bliss, 55
 With such confusion; but the evil, soon
 Driven back, redounded as a flood, on those
 From whom it sprung; impossible to mix

With blessedness. Whence Adam soon repeal'd
The doubts that in his heart arose ; and now 60
Led on, yet sinless, with desire to know
What nearer might concern him, how this world
Of Heaven and Earth conspicuous first began ;
When, and whereof created, for what cause,
What within Eden, or without, was done 65
Before his memory, as one whose drought,
Yet scarce allay'd, still eyes the current stream,
Whose liquid murmur heard new thirst excites,
Proceeded thus to ask his heavenly guest,

Great things, and full of wonder in our ears, 70
Far differing from this world, thou hast reveal'd,
Divine interpreter ; by favour sent
Down from the empyrean, to forewarn
Us timely of what might else have been our loss 74
Unknown, which human knowledge could not reach ;
For which to the infinitely Good we owe
Immortal thanks, and his admonishment
Receive, with solemn purpose to observe
Immutably his sovereign will, the end
Of what we are. But since thou hast vouchsafed 80
Gently, for our instruction, to impart
Things above earthly thought, which yet concern'd
Our knowing, as to highest wisdom seem'd,
Deign to descend now lower, and relate
What may no less perhaps avail us known, 85
How first began this Heaven, which we behold
Distant so high, with moving fires adorn'd
Innumerable ; and this which yields or fills
All space, the ambient air wide interfused,
Embracing round this florid earth ; what cause 90
Moved the Creator, in his holy rest
Through all eternity, so late to build
In Chaos ; and the work begun, how soon
Absolved ; if unforbid thou mayst unfold

What we, not to explore the secrets ask 95
 Of his eternal empire, but the more
 To magnify his works, the more we know.
 And the great light of day yet wants to run
 Much of his race, though steep, suspense in Heaven,
 Held by thy voice; thy potent voice he hears, 100
 And longer will delay to hear thee tell
 His generation, and the rising birth
 Of nature from the unapparent deep;
 Or if the star of evening and the moon
 Haste to thy audience, night with her will bring 105
 Silence, and sleep listening to thee, will watch;
 Or we can bid his absence, till thy song
 End, and dismiss thee ere the morning shine.

Thus Adam his illustrious guest besought;
 And thus the Godlike Angel answer'd mild. 110

This also thy request, with caution ask'd,
 Obtain: though to recount almighty works,
 What words or tongue of Seraph can suffice,
 Or heart of Man suffice to comprehend?
 Yet, what thou canst attain, which best may serve
 To glorify the Maker, and infer 116
 Thee also happier, shall not be withheld
 Thy hearing; such commission from above
 I have received, to answer thy desire
 Of knowledge within bounds; beyond abstain 120
 To ask; nor let thine own inventions hope
 Things not reveal'd, which the invisible king,
 Only omniscient, hath suppress'd in night;
 To none communicable in Earth or Heaven:
 Enough is left besides to search and know. 125
 But knowledge is as food, and needs no less
 Her temperance over appetite, to know
 Or measure what the mind may well contain;
 Oppresses else with surfeit, and soon turns
 Wisdom to folly, as nourishment to wind. 130

Know then, that after Lucifer from Heaven
(So call him, brighter once amidst the host
Of Angels, than that star the stars among)
Fell with his flaming legions through the deep
Into his place, and the great Son return'd 135
Victorious with his Saints, the Omnipotent
Eternal Father from his throne beheld
Their multitude, and to his Son thus spake.

At least our envious Foe hath fail'd, who thought
All like himself rebellious, by whose aid 140
This inaccessible high strength, the seat
Of Deity supreme, us dispossess'd,
He trusted to have seiz'd, and into fraud
Drew many, whom their place knows here no more;
Yet far the greater part have kept, I see, 145
Their station; Heaven, yet populous, retains
Number sufficient to possess her realms
Though wide, and this high temple to frequent
With ministeries due, and solemn rites:
But lest his heart exalt him in the harm 150
Already done, to have dispeopled Heaven,
My damage fondly deem'd, I can repair
That detriment, if such it be to lose
Self-lost; and in a moment will create
Another world, out of one man a race 155
Of men innumerable, there to dwell,
Not here; till, by degrees of merit raised,
They open to themselves at length the way
Up hither, under long obedience tried;
And Earth be changed to Heaven, and Heaven to Earth,
One kingdom, joy and union without end. 161
Meanwhile inhabit lax, ye Powers of Heaven;
And thou my Word, begotten Son, by thee
This I perform; speak thou, and be it done!
My overshadowing Spirit, and Might with thee 165
I send along; ride forth, and bid the Deep

Within appointed bounds be Heaven and Earth;
Boundless the Deep, because I Am who fill
Infinitude, nor vacuous the space.
Though I, uncircumscribed myself, retire, 170
And put not forth my goodness, which is free
To act or not, Necessity and Chance
Approach not me, and what I will is fate.

So spake the Almighty, and to what he spake,
His Word, the Filial Godhead, gave effect. 175
Immediate are the acts of God, more swift
Than time or motion, but to human ears
Cannot without process of speech be told,
So told as earthly notion can receive,
Great triumph and rejoicing was in Heaven, 180
When such was heard declared the Almighty's will;
Glory they sung to the Most High, good will
To future men, and in their dwellings peace:
Glory to Him, whose just avenging ire
Had driven out the ungodly from his sight 185
And the habitations of the just; to Him
Glory and praise, whose wisdom had ordain'd
Good out of evil to create; instead
Of Spirits malign, a better race to bring
Into their vacant room, and thence diffuse 190
His good to worlds and ages infinite.

So sang the Hierarchies: Meanwhile the Son
On his great expedition now appear'd,
Girt with Omnipotence, with radiance crown'd
Of Majesty Divine; sapience and love 195
Immense, and all his Father in him shone.
About his chariot numberless were pour'd
Cherub and Seraph, Potentates and Thrones,
And Virtues, winged Spirits, and chariots wing'd
From the armoury of God; where stand of old 200
Myriads, between two brazen mountains lodged
Against a solemn day, harness'd at hand,

Celestial equipage; and now came forth
Spontaneous, for within them Spirit lived,
Attendant on their Lord: Heaven open'd wide 205
Her ever-during gates, harmonious sound

On golden hinges moving, to let forth
The King of Glory, in his powerful Word
And Spirit, coming to create new worlds.
On heavenly ground they stood; and from the shore
They view'd the vast immeasurable abyss 211
Outrageous as a sea, dark, wasteful, wild,
Up from the bottom turn'd by furious winds
And surging waves, as mountains, to assault
Heaven's height, and with the centre mix the pole.

Silence, ye troubled Waves, and thou Deep, peace,
Said then the Omnific Word; your discord end:
Nor stay'd, but on the wings of Cherubim
Uplifted, in paternal glory rode

Far into Chaos, and the world unborn; 220

For Chaos heard his voice: Him all his train
Follow'd in bright procession to behold
Creation, and the wonders of his might.
Then stay'd the fervid wheels, and in his hand
He took the golden compasses, prepared 225
In God's eternal store, to circumscribe
This universe, and all created things:

One foot he center'd, and the other turn'd
Round through the vast profundity obscure,
And said, Thus far extend, thus far thy bounds, 230
This be thy just circumference, O World!

Thus God the Heaven created, thus the Earth,
Matter unform'd and void: Darkness profound
Cover'd the abyss: but on the watery calm
His brooding wings the Spirit of God outspread, 235

And vital virtue infused, and vital warmth
Throughout the fluid mass; but downward purged
The black tartareous cold infernal dregs,

Adverse to life ; then founded, then conglobed
 Like things to like ; the rest to several place 240
Disparted, and between spun out the air,
And Earth self-balanced on her centre hung.

Let there be light, said God ; and forthwith Light
 Etherial, first of things, quintessence pure
 Sprung from the deep ; and from her native east 245
To journey through the airy gloom began,
Sphered in a radiant cloud, for yet the sun
Was not ; she in a cloudy tabernacle

Sojourn'd the while. God saw the light was good ;
 And light from darkness by the hemisphere 250
 Divided : light the Day, and darkness Night

He named. Thus was the first day even and morn :
 Nor past uncelebrated, nor unsung

By the celestial quires, when orient light
 Exhaling first from darkness they beheld ; 255
 Birth-day of Heaven and Earth ; with joy and shout
 The hollow universal orb they fill'd,

And touch'd their golden harps, and hymning praised
 God and his works ; Creator him they sung,
 Both when first evening was, and when first morn.

Again, God said, Let there be firmament 261
 Amid the waters, and let it divide

The waters from the waters ; and God made
 The firmament, expanse of liquid, pure,
 Transparent, elemental air, diffused 265
 In circuit to the uttermost convex

Of this great round : partition firm and sure,
 The waters underneath from those above
 Dividing : for as earth, so he the world

Built on circumfluous waters calm, in wide 270
Crystalline ocean, and the loud misrule

¶ Of Chaos far removed, lest fierce extremes
Contiguous might distemper the whole frame :

And Heaven he named the Firmament : So even
And morning chorus sung the second day. 275

The Earth was form'd, but in the womb as yet
Of waters, embryo immature involved,
Appear'd not : over all the face of Earth
Main ocean flow'd, not idle ; but with warm
Prolific humour softening all her globe, 280

Fermented the great Mother to conceive,
Satiate with genial moisture ; when God said,
Be gather'd now ye waters under Heaven
Into one place, and let dry land appear.
Immediately the mountains huge appear. 285

Emergent, and their broad bare backs upheave
Into the clouds ; their tops ascend the sky :
So high as heaved the tumid hills, so low
Down sunk a hollow bottom broad and deep,
Capacious bed of waters : Thither they 290

Hasted with glad precipitance, uproll'd
As drops on dust conglobing from the dry ;
Part rise in crystal wall, or ridge direct,
For haste ; such flight the great command impress'd
On the swift floods : As armies at the call 295

Of trumpet (for of armies thou hast heard)
Troop to their standard, so the watery throng,
Wave rolling after wave, where way they found,
If steep, with torrent rapture, if through plain,
Soft-ebbing ; nor withstood them rock or hill ; 300

But they, or under ground, or circuit-wide
With serpent error wandering, found their way,
And on the washy ooze deep channels wore ;
Easy, ere God had bid the ground be dry,
All but within those banks, where rivers now 305

Stream, and perpetual draw their humid train.
The dry land, Earth, and the great receptacle
Of congregated waters, he call'd Seas :

And saw that it was good ; and said, Let the Earth

Put forth the verdant grass, herb yielding seed, 310
And fruit-tree yielding fruit after her kind,
Whose seed is in herself upon the Earth.

He scarce had said, when the bare Earth, till then
Desert and bare, unsightly, unadorn'd,
Brought forth the tender grass, whose verdure clad
Her universal face with pleasing green ; 316

Then herbs of every leaf, that sudden flower'd
Opening their various colours, and made gay
Her bosom, smelling sweet ; and, these scarce blown,
Forth flourish'd thick the clustering vine, forth crept
The smelling gourd, up-stood the corny reed 321
Embattled in her field, and the humble shrub,
And bush with frizzled hair implicit : Last
Rose, as in dance, the stately trees, and spread 324
Their branches hung with copious fruit ; or gemm'd
Their blossoms : With high woods the hills were
Withtufts the valleys, and each fountain side ; [crown'd ;
With borders long the rivers : That Earth now
Seem'd like to Heaven, a seat where Gods might dwell,
Or wander with delight, and love to haunt 330
Her sacred shades : though God had yet not rain'd
Upon the Earth, and man to till the ground
None was, but from the Earth a dewy mist
Went up and water'd all the ground, and each
Plant of the field, which ere it was in the earth 335
God made, and every herb, before it grew
On the green stem ; God saw that it was good.
So even and morn recorded the third day.

Again the Almighty spake : Let there be lights
High in the expanse of Heaven, to divide 340
The day from night ; and let them be for signs,
For seasons, and for days, and circling years ;
And let them be for lights as I ordain
Their office in the firmament of Heaven,
To give light on the earth ; and it was so. 345

And God made two great lights, great for their use
To man, the greater to have rule by day,
The less by night, altern : and made the stars,
And set them in the firmament of Heaven
To illuminate the Earth, and rule the day 350
In their vicissitude, and rule the night,
And light from darkness to divide. God saw,
Surveying his great work, that it was good :
For of celestial bodies first the sun
A mighty sphere he framed, unlightsome first, 355
Though of etherial mould : then form'd the moon
Globose, and every magnitude of stars,
And sow'd with stars the Heaven thick as a field :
Of light by far the greater part he took,
Transplanted from her cloudy shrine, and placed 360
In the sun's orb, made porous to receive
And drink the liquid light ; firm to retain
Her gather'd beams, great palace now of light,
Hither, as to their fountain, other stars
Repairing, in their golden urns draw light, 365
And hence the morning planet gilds her horns ;
By tincture or reflection they augment
Their small peculiar, though from human sight
So far remote, with diminution seen.
First in his east the glorious lamp was seen, 370
Regent of day, and all the horizon round
Invested with bright rays, jocund to run
His longitude through Heaven's high road : the grey
Dawn, and the Pleiades, before him danced,
Shedding sweet influence : Less bright the moon, 375
But opposite in levell'd west was set
His mirror, with full face borrowing her light
From him ; for other light she needed none
In that aspect, and still that distance keeps
Till night ; then in the east her turn she shines, 380
Revolved on Heaven's great axle, and her reign

*-Theory of spirit eyes and the simile of Galileo, has a deam water-
 ... was truly and solemnly felt and worthy to hold one an eyes
 as the need of these Paradise Lost-*

With thousand lesser lights dividual holds,
 With thousand thousand stars, that then appear'd
 Spangling the hemisphere : Then first adorn'd
 With their bright luminaries that set and rose, 385
 Glad evening and glad morn crown'd the fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters generate
 Reptile with spawn abundant, living soul :
 And let fowl fly above the Earth, with wings
 Display'd on the open firmament of Heaven. 390
 And God created the great whales, and each
 Soul living, each that crept, which plenteously
 The waters generated by their kinds ;
 And every bird of wing after his kind ;
 And saw that it was good, and bless'd them, saying,
 Be fruitful, multiply, and in the seas, 396
 And lakes, and running streams, the waters fill ;
 And let the fowl be multiplied on the Earth.

Forthwith the sounds and seas, each creek and bay
With fry innumerable swarm, and shoals 400
Of fish that with their fins and shining scales
Glide under the green wave, in sculls that off
Bank the mid-sea : part single, or with mate,
Graze the sea-weed their pasture, and thro' groves
Of coral stray ; or, sporting with quick glance, 405
Show to the sun their waved coats dropt with gold,
Or, in their pearly shells at ease, attend
Moist nutriment ; or under rocks their food
In jointed armour watch : on smooth the seal,
And bended dolphins play : part huge of bulk 410
Wallowing unwieldy, enormous in their gait,
Tempest the ocean : there leviathan
Hugest of living creatures, on the deep
Stretch'd like a promontory sleeps or swims,
And seems a moving land ; and at his gills 415
Draws in, and at his trunk spouts out a sea :
 Meanwhile the tepid caves, and fens, and shores,

*And it is in the bottom, deepened - on the
 Apurim Mountain that lost with all its or
 torn monument, and keeping in mind the*

Their brood as numerous hatch, from the egg that soon
Bursting with kindly rupture, forth disclosed
Their callow young, but feather'd soon and fledg'd 420
They summ'd their pens, and, soaring the air sublime
With clang despised the ground, under a cloud
In prospect; there the eagle and the stork
On cliffs and cedar tops their eyries build;
Part loosely wing the region, part more wise 425
In common, ranged in figure wedge their way,
Intelligent of seasons, and set forth
Their airy caravan high over seas
Flying, and over lands with mutual wing
Easing their flight; so steers the prudent crane 430
Her annual voyage, borne on winds; the air
Floats, as they pass, fann'd with unnumber'd plumes.
From branch to branch the smaller birds with song
Solaced the woods, and spread their painted wings
Till even, nor then the solemn nightingale 435
Ceased warbling, but all night tuned her soft lays:
Others on silver lakes and rivers bathed
Their downy breast; the swan, with arched neck
Between her white wings mantling proudly, rows
Her state with oary feet; yet oft they quit 440
The dank, and, rising on stiff pennons, tower
The mid ærial sky: Others on ground
Walk'd firm; the crested cock, whose clarion sounds
The silent hours, and the other whose gay train
Adorns him, colour'd with the florid hue 445
Of rainbows and starry eyes. The waters thus
With fish replenish'd, and the air with fowl,
Evening and morn solemnized the fifth day.
The sixth, and of creation last, arose
With evening harps and matin, when God said, 450
Let the Earth bring forth soul living in her kind,
Cattle, and creeping things, and beast of the Earth,
Each in their kind. The Earth obey'd, and straight

or staking: He is not content with simple description, he must of attire
thus here, we not only see how the birds with clang, all these the young
He is not content with simple description, he must of attire
thus here, we not only see how the birds with clang, all these the young

dead and tall - under a pleasant
Mortals, do we see a downy fair in
- but we see them - under a cloud in

Opening her fertile womb, teem'd at a birth
 Innumerable living creatures, perfect forms, 455
 Limb'd and full grown; out of the ground up-rose,
 As from his lair, the wild beast where he wons
 In forest wild, in thicket, brake, or den;
 Among the trees in pairs they rose, they walk'd.
 The cattle in the fields and meadows green: 460
 Those rare and solitary, these in flocks
 Pasturing at once, and in broad herds upsprung.
 The grassy clods now calved, now half appear'd
 The tawny lion, pawing to get free 464
 His hinder parts, then springs as broke from bonds,
 And rampant shakes his brinded mane; the ounce,
 The libbard, and the tiger, as the mole
 Rising, the crumbled Earth above them threw
 In hillocks; the swift stag from under ground 469
 Bore up his branching head; scarce from his mould
 Behemoth, biggest born of Earth, upheaved
 His vastness; fleeced the flocks and bleating rose,
 As plants; ambiguous between sea and land
 The river horse and scaly crocodile.
 At once came forth whatever creeps the ground, 475
 Insect or worm: those waved their limber fans
For wings, and smallest lineaments exact,
In all the liveries deck'd of summer's pride,
With spots of gold and purple, azure and green;
 These as a line their long dimension drew, 480
 Streaking the ground with sinuous trace; not all
 Minims of nature; some of serpent kind,
 Wonderous in length and corpulence, involved
Their snaky folds, and added wings. First crept
 The parsimonious emmet, provident 485
 Of future, in small room large heart inclosed,
 Pattern of just equality perhaps
 Hereafter, join'd in her popular tribes
 Of commonalty; swarming next appear'd

The female bee, that feeds her husband drone 490
Deliciously, and builds her waxen cells
With honey stored. The rest are numberless,
And thou their natures knowst, and gavest them names,
Needless to thee repeated ; nor unknown
The serpent, subtlest beast of all the field, 495
Of huge extent sometimes, with brazen eyes
And hairy main terrific, though to thee
Not noxious, but obedient at thy call.

Now Heaven in all her glory shone, and roll'd
Her motions, as the great first Mover's hand 500
First wheel'd their course ; Earth in her rich attire
Consummate lovely smiled ; air, water, earth,
By fowl, fish, beast, was flown, was swum, was walk'd
Frequent : and of the sixth day yet remain'd ;
There wanted yet the master work, the end 505
Of all yet done ; a creature who, not prone
And brute as other creatures, but endued
With sanctity of reason, might erect
His stature, and upright, with front serene,
Govern the rest, self-knowing, and from thence 510
Magnanimous to correspond with Heaven,
But grateful to acknowledge whence his good
Descends, thither with heart, and voice, and eyes,
Directed in devotion, to adore
And worship God Supreme, who made him chief 515
Of all his works : therefore the Omnipotent
Eternal Father (for where is not he
Present ?) thus to his Son audibly spake.

Let us make now Man in our image, Man
In our similitude, and let them rule 520
Over the fish and fowl of sea and air,
Beast of the field, and over all the Earth,
And every creeping thing that creeps the ground.
This said, he form'd thee, Adam, thee, O Man,
Dust of the ground, and in thy nostrils breathed 525

The breath of life; in his own image he
 Created thee, in the image of God
 Express, and thou becamest a living soul.
 Male he created thee, but thy consort
 Female, for race; then bless'd mankind, and said, 530
 Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the Earth,
 Subdue it, and throughout dominion hold
 Over fish of the sea, and fowl of the air,
 And every living thing that moves on the Earth.

Wherever thus created, for no place 535

Is yet distinct by name; thence, as thou knowst,
 He brought thee into this delicious grove,
 This garden, planted with the trees of God,
 Delectable both to behold and taste;

And freely all their pleasant fruit for food 540

Gave thee; all sorts are here that all the Earth yields,
 Variety without end; but of the tree,

Which, tasted, works knowledge of good and evil,
 Thou mayst not; in the day thou eatst, thou diest;
 Death is the penalty imposed; beware, 545

And govern well thy appetite, lest Sin
 Surprise thee, and her black attendant Death.

Here finish'd he, and all that he had made
 View'd, and behold all was entirely good;

So even and morn accomplish'd the sixth day: 550

Yet not till the Creator from his work

Desisting, though unwearied, up return'd,

Up to the Heaven of Heavens, his high abode,

Thence to behold this new-created world,

The addition of his empire, how it show'd 555

In prospect from his throne, how good, how fair,

Answering his great idea. Up he rode,

Follow'd with acclamation and the sound

Symphonious of ten thousand harps, that tuned

Angelic harmonies: the earth, the air 560

Resounded, (thou rememberst, for thou heardest)

The Heavens and all the constellations rung.
The planets in their station listening stood,
While the bright pomp ascended jubilant.
Open, ye everlasting gates, they sung, 565
Open, ye Heavens, your living doors; let in
The great Creator from his work return'd
Magnificent, his six days work, a world;
Open, and henceforth oft; for God will deign
To visit oft the dwellings of just men 570
Delighted, and with frequent intercourse
Thither will send his winged messengers
On errands of supernal grace. So sung
The glorious train ascending: He through Heaven,
That open'd wide her blazing portals, led 575
To God's eternal house direct the way,
A broad and ample road, whose dust is gold,
And pavement stars, as stars to thee appear,
Seen in the galaxy, that milky way,
Which nightly, as a circling zone, thou seest 580
Powder'd with stars. And now on Earth the seventh
Evening arose in Eden, for the sun
Was set, and twilight from the east came on,
Forerunning night; when at the holy mount
Of Heaven's high-seated top, the imperial throne 585
Of Godhead, fix'd for ever firm and sure,
The Filial Power arrived, and sat him down
With his great Father, for he also went
Invisible, yet stay'd, (such privilege
Hath Omnipresence), and the work ordain'd, 590
Author and End of all things, and from work
Now resting, bless'd and hallow'd the seventh day,
As resting on that day from all his work,
But not in silence holy kept; the harp
Had work and rested not, the solemn pipe, 595
And dulcimer, all organs of sweet stop,
All sounds on fret by string or golden wire,

Temper'd soft tunings intermix'd with voice
Choral or unison: of incense clouds,
Fuming from golden censers, hid the mount. 600
Creation and the six days acts they sung;
Great are thy works, Jehovah! infinite
Thy power! what thought can measure thee, or tongue
Relate thee? Greater now in thy return
Than from the giant Angels; thee that day 605
Thy thunders magnified; but to create
Is greater than created to destroy.
Who can impair thee, Mighty King, or bound
Thy empire? easily the proud attempt
Of Spirits Apostate, and their counsel vain 610
Thou hast repell'd, while impiously they thought
Thee to diminish, and from thee withdraw
The number of thy worshippers. Who seeks
To lessen thee, against his purpose serves
To manifest the more thy might: his evil 615
Thou usest, and from thence createst more good.
Witness this new-made world, another Heaven
From Heaven-gate not far, founded in view
On the clear hyaline, the glassy sea;
Of amplitude almost immense, with stars 620
Numerous, and every star perhaps a world
Of destined habitation; but thou knowst
Their seasons: among these the seat of Men,
Earth, with her nether-ocean circumfused, 624
Their pleasant dwelling-place. Thrice happy Men,
And sons of Men, whom God hath thus advanced,
Created in his image, there to dwell
And worship him, and in reward to rule
Over his works, on earth, in sea, or air,
And multiply a race of worshippers 630
Holy and just: thrice happy, if they know
Their happiness, and persevere upright.

So sung they, and the empyrean rung
With Halleluiahs. Thus was Sabbath kept,
And thy request think now fulfill'd, that ask'd 635
How first this world and face of things began,
And what before thy memory was done
From the beginning; that posterity
Inform'd by thee, might know; if else thou seekst
Aught, not surpassing human measure, say. 640

END OF THE SEVENTH BOOK.

ARGUMENT.

ADAM inquires concerning celestial motions ; is doubtfully answered, and exhorted to search rather things more worthy of knowledge : *Adam* assents, and still desirous to detain *Raphael*, relates to him what he remembered since his own creation : his placing in paradise ; his talk with God concerning solitude and fit society ; his first meeting and nuptials with *Eve* ; his discourse with the Angel thereupon ; who, after admonitions repeated, departs.

PARADISE LOST.

BOOK VIII.

THE Angel ended, and in Adam's ear
 So charming left his voice, that he awhile
 Thought him still speaking, still stood fix'd to hear ;
 Then, as new waked, thus gratefully replied.
 What thanks sufficient, or what recompence 5
 Equal have I to render thee, divine
 Historian, who thus largely hast allay'd
 The thirst I had of knowledge, and vouchsafed
 This friendly condescension, to relate
 Things else by me unsearchable, now heard 10
 With wonder, but delight, and, as is due,
 With glory attributed to the high
 Creator? Something yet of doubt remains,
 Which only thy solution can resolve.
 When I behold this goodly frame, this world, 15
 Of Heaven and Earth consisting, and compute
 Their magnitudes, this Earth a spot, a grain,
 An atom, with the firmament compared
 And all her number'd stars, that seem to roll
 Spaces incomprehensible, (for such 20
 Their distance argues, and their swift return
 Diurnal), merely to officiate light

Round this opacous Earth, this punctual spot,
One day and night, in all their vast survey
Useless besides ; reasoning, I oft admire, 25
How nature, wise and frugal, could commit
Such disproportions, with superfluous hand
So many nobler bodies to create,
Greater so manifold, to this one use,
For aught appears, and on their orbs impose 30
Such restless revolution, day by day
Repeated ; while the sedentary Earth,
That better might with far less compass move,
Served by more noble than herself, attains
Her end without least motion, and receives, 35
As tribute, such a sumless journey brought
Of incorporeal speed, her warmth and light :
Speed, to describe whose swiftness number fails.
So spake our Sire, and by his countenance seem'd
Entering on studious thoughts abstruse, which Eve
Perceiving, where she sat retired in sight, 41
With lowliness majestic from her seat,
And grace that won who saw to wish her stay,
Rose, and went forth among her fruits and flowers,
To visit how they prosper'd, bud and bloom, 45
Her nursery : they at her coming sprung,
And, touch'd by her fair tendance, gladlier grew.
Yet went she not, as not with such discourse
Delighted, or not capable her ear
Of what was high : such pleasure she reserved, 50
Adam relating, she sole auditress ;
Her husband the relator she preferr'd
Before the Angel, and of him to ask
Chose rather ; he, she knew, would intermix
Grateful digressions, and solve high dispute 55
With conjugal caresses : from his lip
Not words alone pleased her. O ! when meet now
Such pairs, in love and mutual honour join'd ?

With Goddess-like demeanour forth she went,
Not unattended ; for on her as queen 60

A pomp of winning graces waited still,
And from about her shot darts of desire
Into all eyes to wish her still in sight.
And Raphael now, to Adam's doubt proposed,
Benevolent and facile thus replied. 65

To ask or search, I blame thee not ; for Heaven
Is as the book of God before thee set,
Wherein to read his wonderous works, and learn
His seasons, hours, or days, or months, or years ;
This to attain, whether Heaven move or Earth, 70
Imports not, if thou reckon right ; the rest
From Man or Angel the great Architect

Did wisely to conceal, and not divulge
His secrets to be scann'd by them who ought
Rather admire ; or, if they list to try 75

Conjecture, he his fabric of the Heavens
Hath left to their disputes, perhaps to move
His laughter at their quaint opinions wide
Hereafter, when they come to model Heaven
And calculate the stars, how they will wield 80

The mighty frame ; how build, unbuild, contrive
To save appearances ; how gird the sphere
With centric and eccentric scribbled o'er,

Cycle and epicycle, orb in orb :

Already by thy reasoning this I guess, 85

Who art to lead thy offspring, and supposest
That bodies bright and greater should not serve
The less not bright, nor Heaven such journeys run,
Earth sitting still, when she alone receives

The benefit. Consider first, that great 90

Or bright infers not excellence : the Earth,
Though, in comparison of Heaven, so small,
Not glistening, may of solid good contain
More plenty than the sun that barren shines, |

Whose virtue on itself works no effect, 95
But in the fruitful Earth; there first received
His beams, unactive else, their vigour find.
Yet not to Earth are those bright luminaries
Officious; but to thee, Earth's habitant.
And for the Heaven's wide circuit, let it speak 100
The Maker's high magnificence, who built
So spacious, and his line stretch'd out so far;
That Man may know he dwells not in his own;
An edifice too large for him to fill,
Lodged in a small partition; and the rest 105
Ordain'd for uses to his Lord best known.
The swiftness of those circles attribute,
Though numberless, to his omnipotence,
That to corporeal substances could add 109
Speed almost spiritual: Me thou thinkst not slow,
Who since the morning hour set out from Heaven
Where God resides, and ere mid-day arrived
In Eden, distance inexpressible
By numbers that have name. But this I urge,
Admitting motion in the Heavens, to show 115
Invalid that which thee to doubt it moved;
Not that I so affirm, though so it seem
To thee who hast thy dwelling here on Earth.
God, to remove his ways from human sense,
Placed Heaven from Earth so far, that earthly sight,
If it presume, might err in things too high, 121
And no advantage gain. What if the sun
Be centre to the world, and other stars,
By his attractive virtue and their own
Incited, dance about him various rounds? 125
Their wandering course now high, now low, then hid,
Progressive, retrograde, or standing still,
In six thou seest, and what if seventh to these
The planet Earth, so stedfast though she seem,
Insensibly three different motions move? 130

Which else to several spheres thou must ascribe,
Moved contrary with thwart obliquities;
Or save the sun his labour, and that swift
Nocturnal and diurnal rhomb supposed,
Invisible else above all stars, the wheel 135
Of day and night; which needs not thy belief,
If Earth, industrious of herself, fetch day
Travelling east, and with her part averse
From the sun's beam meet night, her other part
Still luminous by his ray. What if that light, 140
Sent from her through the wide transpicious air,
To the terrestrial moon be as a star
Enlightning her by day, as she by night
This earth? reciprocal, if land be there,
Fields and inhabitants: Her spots thou seest 145
As clouds, and clouds may rain, and rain produce
Fruits in her soften'd soil, for some to eat
Allotted there; and other suns perhaps,
With their attendant moons, thou wilt descry
Communicating male and female light, 150
Which two great sexes animate the world,
Stored in each orb perhaps with some that live.
For such vast room in nature unpossess'd
By living soul, desert and desolate,
Only to shine, yet scarce to contribute 155
Each orb a glimpse of light convey'd so far
Down to this habitable, which returns
Light back to them, is obvious to dispute.
But whether thus these things, or whether not,
Whether the sun predominant in Heaven 160
Rise on the Earth, or Earth rise on the sun;
He from the east his flaming road begin,
Or she from west her silent course advance,
With inoffensive pace that spinning sleeps
On her soft axle, while she paces even, 165
And bears thee soft with the smooth air along;

Solicit not thy thoughts with matters hid ;
Leave them to God above, him serve and fear ;
Of other creatures, as him pleases best,
Wherever placed, let him dispose : joy thou 170
In what he gives to thee, this Paradise
And thy fair Eve ; Heaven is for thee too high
To know what passes there ; be lowly wise :
Think only what concerns thee and thy being ;
Dream not of other worlds, what creatures there 175
Live, in what state, condition, or degree,
Contented that thus far hath been reveal'd,
Not of Earth only, but of highest Heaven.

To whom thus Adam, clear'd of doubt, replied.
How fully hast thou satisfied me, pure 180
Intelligence of Heaven, Angel serene !
And freed from intricacies, taught to live,
The easiest way ; nor with perplexing thoughts
To interrupt the sweet of life, from which
God hath bid dwell far off all anxious cares, 185
And not molest us, unless we ourselves
Seek them with wandering thoughts, and notions vain.
But apt the mind or fancy is to rove
Uncheck'd, and of her roving is no end ;
Till warn'd, or by experience taught, she learn 190
That not to know at large of things remote
From use, obscure, and subtle, but to know
That which before us lies in daily life,
Is the prime wisdom ; what is more, is fume,
Or emptiness, or fond impertinence, 195
And renders us in things that most concern
Unpractised, unprepared, and still to seek.
Therefore from this high pitch let us descend
A lower flight, and speak of things at hand
Useful ; whence, haply, mention may arise 200
Of something not unseasonable to ask
By sufferance, and thy wonted favour deign'd.

Thee I have heard relating what was done
Ere my remembrance: now, hear me relate
My story, which perhaps thou hast not heard; 205
And day is yet not spent; till then thou seest
How subtly to detain thee I devise,
Inviting thee to hear while I relate,
Fond, were it not in hope of thy reply:
For, while I sit with thee, I seem in Heaven, 210
And sweeter thy discourse is to my ear
Than fruits of palm-tree pleasantest to thirst
And hunger both, from labour, at the hour
Of sweet repast; they satiate, and soon fill
Tho' pleasant; but thy words, with grace divine 215
Imbued, bring to their sweetness no satiety.

To whom thus Raphael answer'd heavenly meek.

Nor are thy lips ungraceful, Sire of Men,
Nor tongue ineloquent; for God on thee
Abundantly his gifts hath also pour'd 220
Inward and outward both, his image fair:
Speaking, or mute, all comeliness and grace
Attends thee; and each word, each motion forms;
Nor less think we in Heaven of thee on Earth
Than of our fellow-servant, and inquire 225
Gladly into the ways of God with Man;
For God we see hath honour'd thee, and set
On Man his equal love: say therefore on;
For I that day was absent, as befel,
Bound on a voyage uncouth and obscure, 230
Far on excursion toward the gates of Hell;
Squared in full legion (such command we had)
To see that none thence issued forth a spy,
Or enemy, while God was in his work,
Lest he, incensed at such eruption bold, 235
Destruction with creation might have mix'd.
Not that they durst without his leave attempt,
But us he sends upon his high behests

For state, as Sovereign King, and to inure
Our prompt obedience. Fast we found, fast shut
The dismal gates, and barricadoed strong; 241
But long ere our approaching heard within
Noise, other than the sound of dance or song,
Torment, and loud lament, and furious rage.

Glad we return'd up to the coasts of light 245
Ere Sabbath evening: so we had in charge.

But thy relation now; for I attend,
Pleased with thy words no less than thou with mine.

So spake the Godlike Power, and thus our Sire.

For Man to tell how human life began 250

Is hard; for who himself beginning knew?

Desire with thee still longer to converse

Induced me. As new waked from soundest sleep

Soft on the flowery herb I found me laid

In balmy sweat, which with his beams the sun 255

Soon dried, and on the reeking moisture fed,

Straight toward Heaven my wondering eyes I turn'd,

And gazed a while the ample sky, till raised

By quick instinctive motion up I sprung,

As thitherward endeavouring, and upright 260

Stood on my feet; about me round I saw

Hill, dale, and shady woods, and sunny plains,

And liquid lapse of murmuring streams; by these,

Creatures that lived and moved, and walk'd, or flew,

Birds on the branches warbling; all things smiled;

With fragrance and with joy my heart o'erflow'd.

Myself I then perused, and limb by limb

Survey'd, and sometimes went, and sometimes ran

With supple joints, as lively vigour led:

But who I was, or where, or from what cause, 270

Knew not; to speak I tried, and forthwith spake;

My tongue obey'd, and readily could name

Whate'er I saw. Thou Sun, said I, fair light,

And thou enlighten'd Earth, so fresh and gay,

Ye Hills, and Dales, ye Rivers, Woods, and Plains,
And ye that live and move, fair Creatures tell, 276
Tell, if ye saw, how came I thus, how here?
Not of myself; by some great Maker then,
In goodness and in power pre-eminent;
Tell me how may I know him, how adore, 280
From whom I have that thus I move and live,
And feel that I am happier than I know.
While thus I call'd, and stray'd I knew not whither,
From whence I first drew air, and first beheld
This happy light, when answer none return'd, 285
On a green shady bank, profuse of flowers,
Pensive I sat me down; there gentle sleep
First found me, and with soft oppression seized
My drowsed sense, untroubled, though I thought
I then was passing to my former state 290
Insensible, and forthwith to dissolve:
When suddenly stood at my head a dream,
Whose inward apparition gently moved
My fancy to believe I yet had being, 294
And lived. One came, methought, of shape divine,
And said, "Thy mansion wants thee, Adam, rise,
"First Man, of men innumerable ordain'd
"First Father; call'd by thee, I come thy guide
"To the garden of bliss, thy seat prepared."
So saying, by the hand he took me raised, 300
And o'er fields and waters, as in air
Smooth sliding without step, last led me up
A woody mountain; whose high top was plain,
A circuit wide, inclosed, with goodliest trees 304
Planted, with walks and bowers, that what I saw
Of Earth before scarce pleasant seem'd. Each tree
Loaden with fairest fruit, that hung to the eye
Tempting, stirr'd in me sudden appetite
To pluck and eat: whereat I waked, and found
Before mine eyes all real, as the dream 310

In that celestial colloquy sublime, 455
As with an object that excels the sense
Dazzled and spent, sunk down, and sought repair
Of sleep, which instantly fell on me, call'd
By nature as in aid, and closed mine eyes.
Mine eyes he closed, but open left the cell 460
Of fancy, my internal sight; by which
Abstract as in a trance, methought I saw,
Though sleeping, where I lay, and saw the shape
Still glorious before whom awake I stood;
Who stooping open'd my left side, and took 465
From thence a rib, with cordial spirits warm,
And life-blood streaming fresh; wide was the wound,
But suddenly with flesh fill'd up and heal'd:
The rib he form'd, and fashion'd with his hands;
Under his forming hands a creature grew, 470
Manlike, but different sex; so lovely fair,
That what seem'd fair in all the world, seem'd now
Mean, or in her summ'd up, in her contain'd,
And in her looks; which from that time infused
Sweetness into my heart, unfelt before, 475
And into all things from her air inspired
The spirit of love and amorous delight.
She disappear'd, and left me dark; I waked
To find her, or for ever to deplore
Her loss, and other pleasures all abjure: 480
When out of hope, behold her, not far off,
Such as I saw her in my dream, adorn'd
With what all Earth or Heaven could bestow
To make her amiable: On she came,
Led by her heavenly Maker, though unseen, 485
And guided by his voice; nor uninform'd
Of nuptial sanctity, and marriage rites:
Grace was in all her steps, Heaven in her eye,
In every gesture, dignity and love.
I, overjoy'd, could not forbear aloud. 490

This turn hath made amends ; thou hast fulfill'd
Thy words, Creator bounteous and benign,
Giver of all things fair ! but fairest this
Of all thy gifts ! nor enviest. I now see
Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, myself 495
Before me ; Woman is her name, of Man
Extracted ; for this cause he shall forego
Father and mother, and to his wife adhere ;
And they shall be one flesh, one heart, one soul.

She heard me thus ; and though divinely brought,
Yet innocence and virgin modesty, 501
Her virtue, and the conscience of her worth,
That would be woo'd, and not unsought be won,
Not obvious, not obtrusive, but retired,
The more desirable ; or, to say all, 505
Nature herself, though pure of sinful thought,
Wrought in her so, that seeing me, she turn'd ;
I follow'd her ; she what was honour knew,
And with obsequious majesty approved
My pleaded reason. To the nuptial bower 510
I led her blushing like the morn : All Heaven,
And happy constellations, on that hour
Shed their selectest influence : The Earth
Gave sign of gratulation, and each hill ;
Joyous the birds ; fresh gales and gentle airs 515
Whisper'd it to the woods, and from their wings
Flung rose, flung odours from the spicy shrub,
Disporting, till the amorous bird of night
Sung spousal, and bid haste the evening-star
On his hill-top, to light the bridal lamp. 520

Thus have I told thee all my state, and brought
My story to the sum of earthly bliss
Which I enjoy ; and must confess to find
In all things else delight indeed, but such
As used or not, works in the mind no change, 525
Nor vehement desire ; these delicacies

I mean of taste, sight, smell, herbs, fruits, and flowers,
Walks, and the melody of birds ; but here
Far otherwise, transported I behold,
Transported touch ; here passion first I felt, 530
Commotion strange ! in all enjoyments else
Superior and unmoved ; here only weak
Against the charm of Beauty's powerful glance.
Or Nature fail'd in me, and left some part
Not proof enough such object to sustain ; 535
Or from my side subducting, took perhaps
More than enough ; at least on her bestow'd
Too much of ornament, in outward show
Elaborate, of inward less exact.
For well I understand in the prime end 540
Of Nature her the inferior, in the mind
And inward faculties, which most excel ;
In outward also her resembling less
His image who made both, and less expressing
The character of that dominion given 545
O'er other creatures ; yet when I approach
Her loveliness, so absolute she seems
And in herself complete, so well to know
Her own, that what she wills to do or say,
Seems wisest, virtuousest, discreetest, best ; 550
All higher knowledge in her presence falls
Degraded ; Wisdom in discourse with her
Loses discountenanced, and like Folly shows ;
Authority and Reason on her wait,
As one intended first, not after made 555
Occasionally ; and, to consummate all,
Greatness of mind, and Nobleness, their seat
Build in her loveliest, and create an awe
About her, as a guard angelic placed.
To whom the Angel with contracted brow. 560
Accuse not Nature, she hath done her part ;
Do thou but thine, and be not diffident

Of wisdom ; she deserts thee not, if thou
Dismiss not her, when most thou needst her nigh,
By attributing overmuch to things 565
Less excellent, as thou thyself perceivest.
For, what admirest thou, what transports thee so,
An outside? fair no doubt, and worthy well
Thy cherishing, thy honouring, and thy love,
Not thy subjection : weigh with her thyself ; 570
Then value : Ofttimes nothing profits more
Than self-esteem, grounded on just and right
Well managed ; of that skill the more thou knowst,
The more she will acknowledge thee her head,
And to realities yield all her shows : 575
Made so adorn for thy delight the more,
So awful, that with honour thou mayst love
Thy mate, who sees when thou are seen least wise.
But if the sense of touch, whereby mankind
Is propagated, seem such dear delight 580
Beyond all other, think the same vouchsafed
To cattle and each beast ; which would not be
To them made common and divulged, if aught
Therein enjoy'd were worthy to subdue
The soul of man, or passion in him move. 585
What higher in her society thou findst
Attractive, human, rational, love still ;
In loving thou dost well, in passion not,
Wherein true love consists not : Love refines
The thoughts, and heart enlarges ; hath his seat 590
In reason, and is judicious ; is the scale
By which to heavenly love thou mayst ascend ;
Not sunk in carnal pleasure ; for which cause,
Among the beasts no mate for thee was found.
To whom thus, half-abash'd, Adam replied. 595
Neither her outside form'd so fair, nor aught
In procreation common to all kinds
(Though higher of the genial bed by far,

And with mysterious reverence I deem)
 So much delights me, as those graceful acts, 600
Those thousand decencies that daily flow,
From all her words and actions, mix'd with love
And sweet compliance, which declare unfeign'd
 Union of mind, or in us both one soul;
 Harmony to behold in wedded pair 605
 More grateful than harmonious sound to the ear.
 Yet these subject not; I to thee disclose
 What inward thence I feel, not therefore foil'd,
 Who meet with various objects, from the sense
 Variously representing; yet still free, 610
 Approve the best, and follow what I approve.
 To love thou blamest me not, for love thou sayst
 Leads up to Heaven, is both the way and guide:
 Bear with me then, if lawful what I ask;
 Love not the heavenly Spirits, and how their love
 Express they? by looks only? or do they mix 616
 Irradiance, virtual or immediate touch?

To whom the Angel, with a smile that glow'd
Celestial rosy red, Loves proper hue,
Answer'd. Let it suffice thee that thou knowst 620
 Us happy, and without love no happiness.
 Whatever pure thou in the body enjoyst
 (And pure thou wert created) we enjoy
 In eminence; and obstacle find none
 Of membrane, joint, or limb, exclusive bars; 625
 Easier than air with air, if Spirits embrace,
 Total they mix, union of pure with pure
 Desiring; nor restrain'd conveyance need,
 As flesh to mix with flesh, or soul with soul.
 But I can now no more; the parting sun 630
Beyond the Earth's green Cape and verdant Isles
Hesperian sets, my signal to depart.
 Be strong, live happy, and love! But, first of all,
 Him, whom to love is to obey, and keep

His great command ; take heed lest passion sway 635
Thy judgment to do aught, which else free will
Would not admit : thine, and of all thy sons,
The weal or woe in thee is placed ; beware !
I in thy persevering shall rejoice,
And all the Blest : Stand fast ; to stand or fall 640
Free in thine own arbitrement it lies.
Perfect within, no outward aid require ;
And all temptation to transgress repel.

So saying, he arose ; whom Adam thus
Follow'd with benediction. Since to part, 645
Go heavenly Guest, ethereal Messenger,
Sent from whose sovereign goodness I adore !
Gentle to me, and affable hath been
Thy condescension, and shall be honour'd ever
With grateful memory : Thou to mankind 650
Be good and friendly still, and oft return !

So parted they : the Angel up to Heaven
From the thick shade, and Adam to his bower,

ARGUMENT.

SATAN, having compassed the Earth, with meditated guile returns, as a mist, by night into Paradise; enters into the serpent sleeping. Adam and Eve in the morning go forth to their labours, which Eve proposes to divide in several places, each labouring apart: Adam consents not, alleging the danger, lest that enemy, of whom they were forewarned, should attempt her found alone: Eve, loath to be thought not circumspect or firm enough, urges her going apart, the rather desirous to make trial of her strength; Adam at last yields: The Serpent finds her alone; his subtle approach, first gazing, then speaking; with much flattery extolling Eve above all other creatures. Eve, wondering to hear the Serpent speak, asks how he attained to human speech and such understanding not till now; the Serpent answers, that by tasting of a certain tree in the garden he attained to both speech and reason, till then void of both: Eve requires him to bring her to that tree, and finds it to be the tree of knowledge forbidden: The Serpent, now grown bolder, with many wiles and arguments, induces her at length to eat; she, pleased with the taste, deliberates awhile whether to impart thereof to Adam or not; at last brings him of the fruit; relates what persuaded her to eat thereof: Adam, at first amazed, but perceiving her lost, resolves, through vehemence of love, to perish with her; and, extenuating the trespass, eats also of the fruit: The effects thereof in them both: they seek to cover their nakedness; then fall to variance and accusation of one another.

PARADISE LOST.

 BOOK IX.

No more of talk, where God or Angel guest
 With Man, as with his friend, familiar used
 To sit indulgent, and with him partake
 Rural repast, permitting him the while
 Venial discourse unblamed : I now must change 5
 Those notes to tragic ; foul distrust, and breach
 Disloyal on the part of Man, revolt,
 And disobedience ; on the part of Heaven
 Now alienated, distance and distaste,
 Anger and just rebuke, and judgment given, 10
 That brought into this world a world of woe,
 Sin and her shadow Death, and Misery
 Death's harbinger. Sad task ! yet argument
 Not less but more heroic than the wrath
 Of stern Achilles on his foe pursued 15
 Thrice fugitive about Troy wall ; or rage
 Of Turnus for Lavinia disespoused ;
 Or Neptune's ire, or Juno's, that so long
 Perplex'd the Greek, and Cytherea's Son ;
 If answerable style I can obtain 20
 Of my celestial patroness, who deigns
 Her nightly visitation unimplored,

And dictates to me slumbering, or inspires
Easy my unpremeditated verse :
 Since first this subject for heroic song 25
 Pleased me, long choosing, and beginning late :
 Not sedulous by nature to indite
 Wars, hitherto the only argument
 Heroic deem'd, chief mastery to dissect,
 With long and tedious havoc, fabled knights 30
 In battles feign'd ; the better fortitude
 Of patience and heroic martyrdom
 Unsung ; or to describe races and games,
 Or tilting furniture, emblazon'd shields,
Impresses quaint, caparisons and steeds ; 35
Bases and tinsel trappings, gorgeous knights
At joust and tournament ; then marshall'd feast
Served up in hall and sewers and seneschals ;
 The skill of artifice or office mean,
 Not that which justly gives heroic name 40
 To person, or to poem. Me, of these
 Nor skill'd nor studious, higher argument
 Remains, sufficient of itself to raise
 That name, unless an age too late, or cold
 Climate, or years, damp my intended wing 45
 Depress'd ; and much they may, if all be mine,
 Not hers who brings it nightly to my ear.
 The sun was sunk, and after him the star
 Of Hesperus, whose office is to bring
 Twilight upon the earth, short arbiter 50
 Twixt day and night ; and now from end to end
Night's hemisphere had veil'd the horizon round :
 When Satan, who late fled before the threats
 Of Gabriel out of Eden, now improved
 In meditated fraud and malice, bent 55
 On Man's destruction, maugre what might hap
 Of heavier on himself, fearless return'd.
 By night he fled, and at midnight return'd

From compassing the earth, cautious of day,
Since Uriel, regent of the sun, descried 60
His entrance, and forewarn'd the Cherubim
That kept their watch; thence, full of anguish driven,
The space of seven continued nights he rode
With darkness, thrice the equinoctial line
He circled, four times cross'd the car of night 65
From pole to pole, traversing each colure ;
On the eighth return'd, and on the coast, averse
From entrance or Cherubic watch, by stealth
Found unsuspected way. There was a place,
Now not, tho' sin, not time, first wrought the change,
Where Tigris, at the foot of Paradise, 71
Into a gulf shot under ground, till part
Rose up a fountain by the tree of life :
In with the river sunk, and with it rose
Satan, involved in rising mist, then sought 75
Where to lie hid ; sea he had search'd, and land,
From Eden over Pontus, and the pool
Mæotis, up beyond the river Ob ;
Downward as far antarctic ; and in length
West from Orontes to the ocean barr'd 80
At Darien, thence to the land where flows
Ganges and Indus. Thus the orb he roam'd
With narrow search, and, with inspection deep,
Consider'd every creature, which of all
Most opportune might serve his wiles, and found 85
The serpent subtlest beast of all the field.
Him, after long debate, irresolute
Of thoughts revolved, his final sentence chose
Fit vessel, fittest imp of fraud, in whom
To enter, and his dark suggestions hide 90
From sharpest sight : for, in the wily snake,
Whatever sleights, none would suspicious mark,
As from his wit and native subtlety
Proceeding ; which, in other beasts observed,

Doubt might beget of diabolic power 95

Active within, beyond the sense of brute.

Thus he resolved ; but first, from inward grief,

His bursting passion into plaints thus pour'd.

O Earth, how like to Heaven, if not preferr'd
More justly, seat worthier of Gods, as built 100

With second thoughts, reforming what was old!

For what God, after better, worse would build ?

Terrestrial Heaven, danced round by other Heavens

That shine, yet bear their bright officious lamps,

Light above light, for thee alone, as seems, 105

In thee concentrating all their precious beams

Of sacred influence ! As God in Heaven

Is centre, yet extends to all, so thou

Centring receivest from all those orbs ; in thee,

Not in themselves, all their known virtue appears

Productive in herb, plant, and nobler birth 111

Of creatures animate with gradual life

Of growth, sense, reason, all summ'd up in Man.

With what delight could I have walk'd thee round,

If I could joy in aught, sweet interchange 115

Of hill, and valley, rivers, woods, and plains,

Now land, now sea, and shores with forests crown'd,

Rocks, dens, and caves ! But I in none of these

Find place or refuge ; and the more I see

Pleasures about me, so much more I feel 120

Torment within me, as from the hateful siege

(|| Of contraries ; all good to me becomes

Bane, and in Heaven much worse would be my state.

But neither here seek I, no nor in Heaven

To dwell, unless by mastering Heaven's Supreme ;

Nor hope to be myself less miserable 126

By what I seek, but others to make such

As I, though thereby worse to me redound :

For only in destroying I find ease

To my relentless thoughts ; and, him destroy'd, 130

Or won to what may work his utter loss,
For whom all this was made, all this will soon
Follow, as to him link'd in weal or woe ;
In woe then ; that destruction wide may range.
To me shall be the glory sole among 135
The infernal Powers, in one day to have marr'd
What he, Almighty styled, six nights and days
Continued making, and who knows how long
Before had been contriving, though perhaps
Not longer than since I, in one night, freed 140
From servitude inglorious well nigh half
The angelic name, and thinner left the throng
Of his adorers : He, to be avenged,
And to repair his numbers thus impair'd,
Whether such virtue spent of old now fail'd 145
More Angels to create, if they at least
Are his created, or, to spite us more,
Determined to advance into our room
A creature form'd of earth, and him endow,
Exalted from so base original, 150
With heavenly spoils, our spoils. What he decreed,
He effected ; Man he made, and for him built
Magnificent this world, and earth his seat,
Him lord pronounced, and, O indignity !
Subjected to his service angel wings, 155
And flaming ministers, to watch and tend
Their earthly charge : of these the vigilance
I dread ; and to elude, thus wrapt in mist
Of midnight vapour, glide obscure, and pry
In every bush and brake, where hap may find 160
The serpent sleeping ; in whose mazy folds
To hide me, and the dark intent I bring.
O foul descent ! that I, who erst contended
With Gods to sit the highest, am now constrain'd
Into a beast, and mix'd with bestial slime, 165
This essence to incarnate and imbrute,

the waiting close? whose head is all
dizzy at the profitable speculation of
scattered in the silent prison

80

PARADISE LOST.

Book IX.

That to the height of deity aspired!
But what will not ambition and revenge
Descend to? who aspires, must down as low
As high he soar'd; obnoxious, first or last, 170
To basest things. Revenge, at first though sweet,
Bitter ere long, back on itself recoils:
Let it; I reck not, so it light well aim'd,
Since higher I fall short, on him who next
Provokes my envy, this new favourite 175
Of Heaven, this man of clay, son of despite,
Whom, us the more to spite, his Maker raised
From dust. Spite then with spite is best repaid.
So saying, through each thicket, dank or dry,
Like a black mist low creeping, he held on 180
His midnight search, where soonest he might find
The serpent: him fast sleeping soon he found
In labyrinth of many a round self-roll'd,
His head the midst, well stored with subtle wiles.
Not yet in horrid shade or dismal den, 185
Nor nocent yet; but, on the grassy herb
Fearless, unfear'd he slept: in at his mouth
The Devil enter'd, and his brutal sense,
In heart or head, possessing, soon inspired
With act intelligential; but his sleep 190
Disturb'd not, waiting close the approach of morn.
Now, when as sacred light began to dawn
In Eden on the humid flowers, that breathed
Their morning incense, when all things that breathe,
From the earth's great altar send up silent praise 195
To the Creator, and his nostrils fill
With grateful smell, forth came the human pair,
And join'd their vocal worship to the quire
Of creatures wanting voice; that done, partake
The season, prime for sweetest scents and airs: 200
Then commune how that day they best may ply
Their growing work; for much their work outgrew

Satan showing himself the serpent, and informing his brutal sense - now let seem
some sufficient - but Milton goes on - but his sleep disturbed with the serpent's bite
does not ache at the smothering and suffocating - the serpent's smell

*no help age. of poetry ever can give a
greater pain of suffocation.*

Book IX. PARADISE LOST.

81

The hands' dispatch of two gardening so wide ;
And Eve first to her husband thus began.

Adam, well may we labour still to dress 205
This garden, still to tend plant, herb, and flower,
Our pleasant task enjoin'd ; but, till more hands
Aid us, the work under our labour grows,
Luxurious by restraint ; what we by day
Lop overgrown, or prune, or prop, or bind, 210
One night or two with wanton growth derides,
Tending to wild. Thou therefore now advise,
Or hear what to my mind first thoughts present ;
Let us divide our labours, thou, where choice
Leads thee, or where most needs, whether to wind
The woodbine round this arbour, or direct 216
The clasping ivy where to climb ; while I,
In yonder spring of roses intermix'd
With myrtle, find what to redress till noon :
For, while so near each other thus all day 220
Our task we choose, what wonder if so near
Looks intervene and smiles, or object new
Casual discourse draw on, which intermits
Our day's work, brought to little, though begun
Early, and the hour of supper comes unearn'd. 225
To whom mild answer Adam thus return'd.

Sole Eve, associate sole, to me beyond
Compare above all living creatures dear !
Well hast thou motion'd, well thy thoughts employ'd,
How we might best fulfil the work which here 230
God hath assign'd us ; nor of me shalt pass
Unpraised ; for nothing lovelier can be found
In woman, than to study household good,
And good works in her husband to promote.
Yet not so strictly hath our Lord imposed 235
Labour, as to debar us when we need
Refreshment, whether food, or talk between,
Food of the mind, or this sweet intercourse

Of looks and smiles ; for smiles from reason flow,
To brute denied, and are of love the food ; 240
Love, not the lowest end of human life.
For not to irksome toil, but to delight,
He made us, and delight to reason join'd.
These paths and bowers doubt not but our joint hands
Will keep from wilderness with ease, as wide 245
As we need walk, till younger hands ere long
Assist us : But, if much converse perhaps
Thee satiate, to short absence I could yield :
For solitude sometimes is best society,
And short retirement urges sweet return. 250
But other doubt possesses me, lest harm
Befall thee severed from me ; for thou knowst
What hath been warn'd us, what malicious foe
Envyng our happiness, and of his own
Despairing, seeks to work us woe and shame 255
By sly assault ; and somewhere nigh at hand
Watches, no doubt, with greedy hope to find
His wish and best advantage, us asunder ;
Hopeless to circumvent us join'd, where each
To other speedy aid might lend at need ; 260
Whether his first design be to withdraw
Our fealty from God, or to disturb
Conjugal love, than which perhaps no bliss
Enjoy'd by us excites his envy more ;
Or this, or worse, leave not the faithful side 265
That gave thee being, still shades thee, and protects :
The wife, where danger or dishonour lurks,
Safest and seemliest by her husband stays,
Who guards her, or with her the worst endures.
To whom the virgin majesty of Eve, 270
As one who loves, and some unkindness meets,
With sweet austere composure thus replied.
Offspring of Heaven and Earth, and all Earth's Lord,
That such an Enemy we have, who seeks

Our ruin, both by thee inform'd I learn, 275
And from the parting Angel overheard,
As in a shady nook I stood behind,
Just then return'd at shut of evening flowers.
But that thou shouldst my firmness therefore doubt
To God or thee, because we have a foe 280
May tempt it, I expected not to hear.
His violence thou fearest not, being such
As we, not capable of death or pain,
Can either not receive, or can repel.
His fraud is then thy fear; which plain infers 285
Thy equal fear, that my firm faith and love
Can by his fraud be shaken or seduced;
Thoughts, which how found they harbour in thy breast,
Adam, misthought of her to thee so dear?
To whom with healing words Adam replied. 290
Daughter of God and Man, Immortal Eve,
For such thou art, from sin and blame entire;
Not diffident of thee do I dissuade
Thy absence from my sight, but to avoid
The attempt itself, intended by our foe. 295
For he who tempts, though in vain, at least asperses
The tempted with dishonour foul, supposed
Not incorruptible of faith, not proof
Against temptation: Thou thyself with scorn
And anger wouldst resent the offer'd wrong, 300
Though ineffectual found; misdeem not then,
If such affront I labour to avert
From thee alone, which on us both at once
The enemy, though bold, will hardly dare,
Or daring, first on me the assault shall light. 305
Nor thou his malice and false guile contemn;
Subtle he needs must be, who could seduce
Angels; nor think superfluous others aid.
I, from the influence of thy looks, receive
Access in every virtue; in thy sight 310

A foe so proud will first the weaker seek;
So bent, the more shall shame him his repulse. 384

Thus saying, from her husband's hand her hand
Soft she withdrew; and, like a Wood-Nymph light,
Oread or Dyrad, or of Delia's train,

Betook her to the groves; but Delia's self

In gait surpass'd, and Goddess-like deport,

Though not as she with bow and quiver arm'd, 390

But with such gardening tools as art yet rude,

Guiltless of fire, had form'd, or Angels brought.

To Pales, or Pomona, thus adorn'd,

Likest she seem'd, Pomona when she fled

Vertumnus, or to Ceres in her prime,

395

Yet Virgin of Proserpina from Jove.

Her long with ardent look his eye pursued

Delighted, but desiring more her stay.

Oft he to her his charge of quick return

Repeated; she to him as oft engaged

400

To be returned by noon amid the bower,

And all things in best order to invite

Noontide repast, or afternoon's repose.

O much deceived, much failing, hapless Eve,

Of thy presumed return! event perverse!

405

Thou never from that hour in Paradise

Foundst either sweet repast, or sound repose;

Such ambush, hid among sweet flowers and shades,

Waited with hellish rancour imminent

To intercept thy way, or send thee back

410

Despoil'd of innocence, of faith, of bliss.

For now, and since first break of dawn, the Fiend,

Mere serpent in appearance, forth was come,

And on his quest, where likeliest he might find

The only two of mankind, but in them

415

The whole included race, his purposed prey.

In bower and field he sought, where any tuft

Of grove or garden-plot more pleasant lay,

Their tendance, or plantation for delight;
By fountain or by shady rivulet 420
He sought them both, but wish'd his hap might find
Eve separate; he wish'd, but not with hope
Of what so seldom chanced; when to his wish,
Beyond his hope, Eve separate he spies,
Veil'd in a cloud of fragrance, where she stood, 425
Half spied, so thick the roses blushing round
About her glow'd, oft stooping to support
Each flower of slender stalk, whose head, tho' gay
Carnation, purple, azure, or speck'd with gold,
Hung drooping unsustain'd; them she upstays 430
Gently with myrtle band, mindless the while
Herself, though fairest unsupported flower,
From her best prop so far, and storm so nigh.
Nearer he drew, and many a walk traversed
Of stateliest covert, cedar, pine, or palm; 435
Then voluble and bold, now hid, now seen
Among thick woven arborets, and flowers
Imbordered on each bank, the hand of Eve:
Spot more delicious than those gardens feign'd
Or of revived Adonis, or renown'd 440
Alcinous, host of old Laertes' son;
Or that, not mystic, where the sapient king
Held dalliance with his fair Egyptian spouse.
Much he the place admired, the person more.
As one who long in populous city pent, 445
Where houses thick and sewers annoy the air,
Forth issuing on a summer's morn, to breathe
Among the pleasant villages and farms
Adjoin'd, from each thing met conceives delight;
The smell of grain, or tedded grass, or kine, 450
Or dairy, each rural sight, each rural sound;
If chance with nymph-like step fair virgin pass,
What pleasing seem'd, for her now pleases more;
She most, and in her look sums all delight:

Such pleasure took the Serpent to behold 455
 'This flowery plat, the sweet recess of Eve
 'Thus early, thus alone: Her heavenly form
 Angelic, but more soft, and feminine,
Her graceful innocence, her every air
Of gesture, or least action, overawed 460
His malice, and with rapine sweet bereaved
 His fierceness of the fierce intent it brought:
 That space the Evil-one abstracted stood
 From his own evil, and for the time remain'd
 Stupidly good; of enmity disarm'd, 465
 Of guile, of hate, of envy, of revenge;
 But the hot Hell that always in him burns,
 Though in mid Heaven, soon ended his delight,
 And tortures him now more, the more he sees
 Of pleasure, not for him ordain'd: then soon 470
 Fierce hate he recollects, and all his thoughts
 Of mischief, gratulating, thus excites.

Thoughts, whither have ye led me? With what sweet
 Compulsion thus transported, to forget
 What hither brought us! Hate, not love, nor hope
 Of Paradise for Hell, hope here to taste 476
 Of pleasure, but all pleasure to destroy,
 Save what is in destroying; other joy
 To me is lost. Then, let me not let pass
 Occasion which now smiles; behold alone 480
 'The woman, opportune to all attempts,
 Her husband, for I view far round, not nigh,
 Whose higher intellectual more I shun,
 And strength, of courage haughty, and of limb
 Heroic built, though of terrestrial mould; 485
 Foe not formidable! exempt from wound,
 I not; so much hath Hell debased, and pain
 Enfeebled me, to what I was in Heaven.
 She fair, divinely fair, fit love for Gods!
Not terrible, though terror be in love 490

And beauty, not approach'd by stronger hate,
Hate stronger, under show of love well feign'd ;
The way which to her ruin now I tend.

So spake the enemy of mankind, inclosed
In serpent, inmate bad ; and toward Eve 495

Address'd his way ; not with indented wave,
Prone on the ground, as since, but on his rear,
Circular base of rising folds, that tower'd
Fold above fold a surging maze ; his head
Crested aloft, and carbuncle his eyes : 500

With burnish'd neck of verdant gold, erect
Amidst his circling spires, that on the grass
Floated redundant : pleasing was his shape,
And lovely ; never since of serpent-kind
Lovelier, not those that in Illyria changed 505

Hermione and Cadmus, or the God
In Epidaurus ; nor to which transform'd
Ammonian Jove, or Capitoline was seen,
He with Olympias ; this with her who bore
Scipio the height of Rome. With tract oblique 510
At first, as one who sought access, but fear'd
To interrupt, side-long he works his way.

As when a ship, by skilful steersman wrought
Nigh river's mouth or foreland, where the wind
Veers oft, as oft so steers, and shifts her sail : 515
So varied he, and of his tortuous train

Curl'd many a wanton wreath in sight of Eve,
To lure her eye ; she, busied, heard the sound
Of rustling leaves, but minded not, as used
To such disport before her through the field, 520
From every beast ; more duteous at her call,
Than at Circean call the herd disguised.

He, bolder now, uncall'd before her stood,
But as in gaze admiring : oft he bowed
His turret crest, and sleek enamell'd neck, 525
Fawning, and lick'd the ground whereon she trod.

His gentle dumb expression turn'd at length
The eye of Eve to mark his play ; he, glad
Of her attention gain'd, with serpent-tongue
Organic, or impulse of vocal air, 530
His fraudulent temptation thus began.

Wonder not, Sovereign Mistress, if perhaps
Thou canst, who art sole wonder ; much less arm
Thy looks, the Heaven of mildness, with disdain,
Displeased that I approach thee thus, and gaze 535
Insatiate ; I thus single ; nor have fear'd
Thy awful brow, more awful thus retired.
Fairest resemblance of thy Maker fair,
Thee all things living gaze on, all things thine
By gift, and thy celestial beauty adore 540
With ravishment beheld ! there best beheld,
Where universally admired ; but here
In this inclosure wild, these beasts among,
Beholders rude, and shallow to discern
Half what in thee is fair, one man except, 545
Who sees thee ? (And what is one ?) who shouldst be seen
A Goddess among Gods, adored and served
By Angels numberless, thy daily train.

So glozed the Tempter, and his proem tuned ;
Into the heart of Eve his words made way, 550
Though at the voice much marvelling ; at length,
Not unamazed, she thus in answer spake.

What may this mean ? Language of man pronounced
By tongue of brute, and human sense express'd ?
The first, at least, of these I thought denied 555
To beasts ; whom God on their creation-day
Created mute to all articulate sound ;
The latter I demur ; for in their looks
Much reason, and in their actions, oft appears.
Thee, Serpent, subtlest beast of all the field 560
I knew, but not with human voice endued ;
Redouble then this miracle, and say,

How camest thou speakable of mute, and how
To me so friendly grown above the rest
Of brutal kind, that daily are in sight? 565
Say, for s ch wonder claims attention due.

To whom the guileful Tempter thus replie.
Empress of this fair world, resplendent Eve!
Easy to me it is to tell thee all [obey'd:
What thou commandest; and right thou shouldst be
I was at first as other beasts that graze 571

The trodden herb, of abject thoughts and low,
As was my food: nor aught but food discern'd
Or sex, and apprehended nothing high:
Till on a day roving the field, I chanced 575

A goodly tree far distant to behold
Loaden with fruit of fairest colours mix'd,
Ruddy and gold: I nearer drew to gaze;
When from the boughs a savoury odour blown,
Grateful to appetite, more pleased my sense 580

Than smell of sweetest fennel, or the teats
Of ewe or goat dropping with milk at even,
Unsuck'd of lamb or kid, that tend their play.

To satisfy the sharp desire I had
Of tasting those fair apples, I resolved 585
Not to defer; hunger and thirst at once,
Powerful persuaders, quicken'd at the scent
Of that alluring fruit, urg'd me so keen.

About the mossy trunk I wound me soon;
For high from ground the branches would require 590
Thy utmost reach or Adam's: Round the tree
All other beasts that saw, with like desire
Longing and envying stood, but could not reach.

Amid the tree now got, where plenty hung
Tempting so nigh, to pluck and eat my fill 595
I spared not; for, such pleasure till that hour
At feed or fountain, never had I found.

Sated at length, ere long I might perceive

Strange alteration in me, to degree
 Of reason in my inward powers; and speech 600
 Wanted not long; though to this shape retain'd.
 Thenceforth to speculations high or deep
 I turn'd my thoughts, and with capacious mind
 Consider'd all things visible in Heaven,
 Or Earth, or Middle; all things fair and good: 605
 But all that fair and good in thy divine
 Semblance, and in thy beauties heavenly ray,
 United I beheld! no fair to thine
 Equivalent or second! which compell'd
 Me thus, though importune perhaps, to come 610
 And gaze, and worship thee of right declared
 Sovereign of creatures, universal Dame!

So talk'd the spirited sly Snake; and Eve,
 Yet more amazed, unwary thus replied.

Serpent thy overpraising leaves in doubt 615
 The virtue of that fruit, in thee first proved;
 But say, where grows the tree? from hence how far?
 For many are the trees of God that grow
 In Paradise, and various, yet unknown
 To us; in such abundance lies our choice, 620
 As leaves a greater store of fruit untouch'd,
Still hanging incorruptible, till men
Grow up to their provision, and more hands
 Help to disburden Nature of her birth.

To whom the wily Adder, blithe and glad. 625
 Empress, the way is ready, and not long;
 Beyond a row of myrtles, on a flat,
Fast by a fountain, one small thicket past
Of blowing myrrh and balm; if thou accept
 My conduct, I can bring thee thither soon. 630

Lead then, said Eve. He, leading, swiftly roll'd
 In tangles, and made intricate seem straight,
To mischief swift. Hope elevates, and joy
Brightens his crest; as when a wandering fire,

Compact of unctuous vapour, which the night 635
Condenses, and the cold environs round,
Kindled through agitation to a flame,
Which oft, they say, some evil Spirit attends,
Hovering and blazing with delusive light,
Misleads the amazed night-wanderer from his way 640
To bogs and mires, and oft through pond or pool:
There swallow'd up and lost, from succour far.

So glister'd the dire Snake, and into fraud
Led Eve, our credulous mother, to the tree
Of prohibition, root of all our woe; 645
Which when she saw, thus to her guide she spake.

Serpent, we might have spared our coming hither,
Fruitless to me, though fruit be here to excess,
The credit of whose virtue rest with thee;
Wonderous indeed, if cause of such effects. 650
But of this tree we may not taste nor touch;
God so commanded, and left that command
Sole daughter of his voice; the rest, we live
Law to ourselves; our reason is our law.

To whom the Tempter guilefully replied. 655
Indeed! Hath God then said that of the fruit
Of all these garden-trees ye shall not eat,
Yet Lords declared of all in earth or air?

To whom thus Eve, yet sinless. Of the fruit
Of each tree in the garden we may eat; 660
But of the fruit of this fair tree amidst
The garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat
Thereof, nor shall ye touch it, lest ye die. [bold

She scarce had said, though brief, when now more
The Tempter, but with show of zeal and love 665
To Man, and indignation at his wrong,
New part puts on; and, as to passion moved,
Fluctuates disturb'd, yet comely and in act
Raised, as of some great matter to begin.
As when of old some orator renown'd 670

In Athens or free Rome, where eloquence
 Flourish'd, since mute ; to some great cause address'd,
 Stood in himself collected ; while each part,
 Motion, each act, won audience ere the tongue ;
 Sometimes in height began, as no delay 675
 Of preface brooking, through his zeal of right :
So standing, moving, or to height up grown,
 The Tempter, all impassion'd thus began.

O sacred, wise, and wisdom-giving Plant,
 Mother of science ! now I feel thy power 680
 Within me clear ; not only to discern
 Things in their causes, but to trace the ways
 Of highest agents, deem'd however wise.
 Queen of this universe ! do not believe
 Those rigid threats of death ; ye shall not die : 685
 How should you ? By the fruit ? It gives you life
 To knowledge ; by the threatener ? look on me,
 Me, who have touch'd and tasted ; yet both live,
 And life more perfect have attain'd than Fate
 Meant me, by venturing higher than my lot. 690
 Shall that be shut to Man, which to the Beast
 Is open ? Or will God incense his ire
 For such a petty trespass ? and not praise
 Rather your dauntless virtue, whom the pain
 Of death denounced, whatever thing death be, 695
 Deterr'd not from atchieving what might lead
 To happier life, knowledge of good and evil ?
 Of good, how just ? Of evil, if what is evil
 Be real, why not known, since easier shunn'd ?
 God therefore cannot hurt ye, and be just ; 700
 Not just, not God ; not fear'd then, nor obey'd :
 Your fear itself of death removes the fear.
 Why then was this forbid ? Why, but to awe ;
 Why, but to keep ye low and ignorant,
 His worshippers ? He knows that in the day 705
 Ye eat thereof, your eyes that seem so clear,

Yet are but dim, shall perfectly be then
Open'd and clear'd, and ye shall be as Gods,
Knowing both good and evil, as they know.
That ye shall be as Gods, since I as Man, 710
Internal Man, is but proportion meet;
I, of brute, human; ye, of human, Gods.
So shall ye die perhaps, by putting off
Human, to put on Gods; death to be wish'd,
'Tho' threaten'd, which no worse than this can bring.
And what are Gods, that Man may not become 716
As they, participating god-like food?
The Gods are first, and that advantage use
On our belief, that all from them proceeds;
I question it; for this fair Earth I see, 720
Warm'd by the sun, producing every kind;
Them nothing: if they all things, who inclosed
Knowledge of good and evil in this tree,
That whoso eats thereof, forthwith attains
Wisdom without their leave? And wherein lies 725
The offence, that Man should thus attain to know?
What can your knowledge hurt him, or this tree
Impart against his will, if all be his?
Or is it envy, and can envy dwell
In heavenly breasts? These, these, and many more
Causes import your need of this fair fruit. 731
Goddess humane, reach then, and freely taste.
He ended; and his words replete with guile,
Into her heart too easy entrance won:
Fix'd on the fruit she gazed, which to behold 735
Might tempt alone; and in her ears the sound
Yet rung of his persuasive words, impregn'd
With reason, to her seeming, and with truth;
Meanwhile the hour of noon drew on, and waked
An eager appetite, raised by the smell 740
So savoury of that fruit, which with desire,
Inclinable now grown to touch or taste,

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Of virtue to make wise : What hinders then
To reach, and feed at once both body and mind ?

So saying, her rash hand in evil hour 780
Forth reaching to the fruit, she pluck'd, she eat!
Earth felt the wound ; and Nature from her seat,
Sighing through all her works, gave signs of woe,
That all was lost. Back to the thicket slunk
The guilty Serpent ; and well might ; for Eve, 785
Intent now wholly on her taste, nought else
Regarded ; such delight till then, as seem'd,
In fruit she never tasted, whether true
Or fancied so, through expectation high
Of knowledge ; nor was Godhead from her thought.
Greedily she ingorged without restraint, 791
And knew not eating death : Sate at length,
And heighten'd as with wine, jocund and boon,
Thus to herself she pleasingly began.

O sovereign, virtuous, precious of all trees 795
In Paradise ! of operation blest
To sapience, hitherto obscured, infamed,
And thy fair fruit let hang, as to no end
Created ; but henceforth my early care
Not without song, each morning, and due praise, 800
Shall tend thee, and the fertile burden ease
Of thy full branches offer'd free to all ;
Till, dieted by thee, I grow mature
In knowledge, as the Gods who all things know ;
Though others envy what they cannot give ; 805
For, had the gift been theirs, it had not here
Thus grown. Experience, next, to thee I owe,
Best guide ; not following thee, I had remain'd
In ignorance ; thou openst wisdom's way,
And givest access, though secret she retire. 810
And I perhaps am secret ; Heaven is high,
High, and remote to see from thence distinct
Each thing on Earth ; and other care perhaps

May have diverted from continual watch
Our great Forbidder, safe with all his spies 815
About him. But to Adam in what sort
Shall I appear? Shall I to him make known
As yet my change, and give him to partake
Full happiness with me, or rather not,
But keep the odds of knowledge in my power 820
Without copartner? So to add what wants
In female sex, the more to draw his love,
And render me more equal; and perhaps,
A thing not undesirable, sometime
Superior; for inferior who is free 825
This may be well: But what if God have seen,
And death ensue? Then I shall be no more!
And Adam, wedded to another Eve,
Shall live with her enjoying, I extinct;
A death to think! Confirm'd then I resolve, 830
Adam shall share with me in bliss or woe;
So dear I love him, that with him all deaths
I could endure, without him live no life.

So saying, from the tree her step she turn'd;
But first low reverence done, as to the Power 835
That dwelt within, whose presence had infused
Into the plant scintial sap, derived
From nectar, drink of Gods. Adam the while,
Waiting desirous her return, had wove
Of choicest flowers a garland, to adorn 840
Her tresses, and her rural labours crown,
As reapers oft are wont their harvest-queen.
Great joy he promised to his thoughts, and new
Solace in her return, so long delay'd;
Yet oft his heart, divine of something ill, 845
Mistake him; he the faltering measure felt;
And forth to meet her went, the way she took
That morn when first they parted; by the tree
Of knowledge he must pass; there he her met,

Scarce from the tree returning ; in her hand 850

A bough of fairest fruit, that downy smiled

New gather'd, and ambrosial smell diffused.

To him she hasted ; in her face excuse

Came prologue, and apology too prompt ;

Which with bland words at will she thus address'd.

Hast thou not wonder'd, Adam, at my stay ? 856

Thee I have miss'd, and thought it long, deprived

Thy presence ; agony of love till now

Not felt, nor shall be twice ; for never more

Mean I to try, what rash untried I sought, 860

The pain of absence from thy sight. But strange

Hath been the cause, and wonderful to hear :

This tree is not, as we are told, a tree

Of danger tasted, not to evil unknown

Opening the way, but of divine effect 865

To open eyes, and make them Gods who taste ;

And hath been tasted such : The serpent wise,

Or not restrain'd as we, or not obeying,

Hath eaten of the fruit ; and is become,

Not dead as we are threaten'd, but thenceforth 870

Endued with human voice and human sense,

Reasoning to admiration ; and with me

Persuasively hath so prevail'd, that I

Have also tasted, and have also found

The effects to correspond ; opener mine eyes, 875

Dim erst, dilated spirits, ampler heart,

And growing up to Godhead ; which for thee

Chiefly I sought, without thee can despise.

For bliss, as thou hast part, to me is bliss ;

Tedious, unshared with thee, and odious soon. 880

Thou therefore also taste, that equal lot

May join us, equal joy, as equal love :

Lest thou not tasting, different degree

Disjoin us, and I then too late renounce

Deity for thee, when Fate will not permit. 885

Thus eve with countenance blithe her story told;
But in her cheek distemper flushing glow'd.

On the other side, Adam, soon as he heard
The fatal trespass done by Eve, amazed,
Astonied stood and blank, while horror chill 890
Ran through his veins, and all his joints relax'd;
From his slack hand the garland wreath'd for Eve
Down dropt, and all the faded roses shed:
Speechless he stood and pale, till thus at length
First to himself he inward silence broke. 895

O fairest of creation, last and best
Of all God's works, Creature in whom excell'd
Whatever can to sight or thought be form'd,
Holy, divine, good, amiable, or sweet!
How art thou lost! how on a sudden lost, 900
Defaced, deflower'd, and now to death devote!
Rather, how hast thou yielded to transgress
The strict forbiddance, how to violate
The sacred fruit forbidden? Some cursed fraud
Of enemy hath beguiled thee, yet unknown, 905
And me with thee hath ruin'd; for with thee
Certain my resolution is to die;
How can I live without thee! how forego
Thy sweet converse, and love so dearly join'd,
To live again in these wild woods forlorn! 910
Should God create another Eve, and I
Another rib afford, yet loss of thee
Would never from my heart; no, no! I feel
The link of Nature draw me: flesh of flesh,
Bone of my bone thou art, and from thy state 915
Mine never shall be parted, bliss or woe.

So having said, as one from sad dismay
Recomforted, and after thoughts disturb'd
Submitting to what seem'd remediless,
Thus in calm mood his words to Eve he turn'd. 920

Bold deed thou hast presumed, adventurous Eve,
And peril great provoked, who thus hast dared,
Had it been only coveting to eye
That sacred fruit, sacred to abstinence,
Much more to taste it under ban to touch. 925
But past who can recall, or done undo?
Not God Omnipotent, nor Fate; yet so
Perhaps thou shalt not die, perhaps the fact
Is not so heinous now, foretasted fruit,
Profaned first by the serpent, by him first 930
Made common and unhallow'd, ere our taste;
Nor yet on him found deadly; he yet lives;
Lives, as thou saidst, and gains to live, as Man,
Higher degree of life; inducement strong
To us, as likely tasting to attain 935
Proportional ascent; which cannot be
But to be Gods, or Angels, Demi-Gods.
Nor can I think that God, Creator wise,
Though threatening, will in earnest so destroy
Us his prime creatures, dignified so high, 940
Set over all his works; which in our fall,
For us created, needs with us must fail,
Dependent made; so God shall uncreate,
Be frustrate, do, undo, and labour lose;
Not well conceived of God, who, though his power
Creation could repeat, yet would be loath 946
Us to abolish, lest the Adversary
Triumph and say: "Fickle their state whom God
"Most favours; who can please him long? Me first
"He ruin'd, now Mankind? whom will he next?"
Matter of scorn, not to be given the Foe. 951
However I with thee, have fix'd my lot,
Certain to undergo like doom; if death
Consort with thee, death is to me as life;
So forcible within my heart I feel 955
The bond of Nature draw me to my own;

My own in thee, for what thou art is mine ;
Our state cannot be severed, we are one,
One flesh ; to lose thee were to lose myself.

So Adam, and thus Eve to him replied. 960

O glorious trial of exceeding love,
Illustrious evidence, example high !
Engaging me to emulate ; but, short
Of thy perfection, how shall I attain,
Adam? from whose dear side I boast me sprung, 965

And gladly of our union hear thee speak,
One heart, one soul in both ; whereof good proof
This day affords, declaring thee resolved,
Rather than death, or aught than death more dread,
Shall separate us, link'd in love so dear, 970

To undergo with me one guilt, one crime,
If any be, of tasting this fair fruit,
Whose virtue (for of good still good proceeds,
Direct, or by occasion) hath presented
This happy trial of thy love, which else 975
So eminently never had been known.

Were it I thought death menaced would ensue
This my attempt, I would sustain alone
The worst, and not persuade thee, rather die.
Deserted, than oblige thee with a fact 980

Pernicious to thy peace ; chiefly, assured
Remarkably so late of thy so true,
So faithful, love unequall'd ; but I feel
Far otherwise the event ; not death, but life
Augmented, open'd eyes, new hopes, new joys, 985
Taste so divine, that what of sweet before
Hath touch'd my sense, flat seems to this, and harsh.
On my experience, Adam, freely taste,
And fear of death deliver to the winds.

So saying, she embraced him, and for joy 990
Tenderly wept, much won that he his love
Had so ennobled, as of choice to incur

Divine displeasure for her sake, or death.
In recompense (for such compliance bad
Such recompense best merits) from the bough 995
She gave him of that fair enticing fruit
With liberal hand : he scrupled not to eat
Against his better knowledge, not deceived,
But fondly overcome with female charm.
Earth trembled from her entrails, as again 1000
In pangs, and Nature gave a second groan ;
Sky lower'd, and muttering thunder, some sad drops
Wept at completing of the mortal sin
Original ; while Adam took no thought,
Eating his fill, nor Eve to iterate 1005
Her former trespass fear'd, the more to soothe
Him with her loved society ; that now,
As with new wine intoxicated both,
They swim in mirth, and fancy that they feel
Divinity within them breeding wings 1010
Wherewith to scorn the earth : But that false fruit
Far other operation first display'd,
Carnal desire inflaming ; he on Eve
Began to cast lascivious eyes ; she him
As wantonly repaid ; in lust they burn : 1015
Till Adam thus 'gan Eve to dalliance move.

Eve, now I see thou art exact of taste,
And elegant, of sapience no small part,
Since to each meaning savour we apply,
And palate call judicious ; I the praise 1020
Yield thee, so well this day thou hast purvey'd.
Much pleasure we have lost, while we abstain'd
From this delightful fruit, nor known till now
True relish, tasting : if such pleasure be
In things to us forbidden, it might be wish'd, 1025
For this one tree had been forbidden ten.
But come, so well refresh'd, now let us play,
As meet is, after such delicious fare ;

For never did thy beauty, since the day
I saw thee first, and wedded thee, adorn'd 1030
With all perfections, so inflame my sense
With ardour to enjoy thee, fairer now
Than ever, bounty of this virtuous tree !

So said he, and forbore not glance or toy
Of amorous intent, well understood 1035

Of Eve, whose eye darted contagious fire.
Her hand he seized, and to a shady bank,
Thick overhead with verdant roof embower'd,
He led her, nothing loath ; flowers were the couch,
Pansies, and violets, and asphodel, 1040

And hyacinth, earth's freshest softest lap.
There they their fill of love and love's disport
Took largely, of their mutual guilt the seal,
The solace of their sin, till dewy sleep

Oppress'd them, wearied with their amorous play.
Soon as the force of that fallacious fruit, 1046

That with exhilarating vapour bland
About their spirits had play'd, and inmost powers
Made err, was now exhaled ; and grosser sleep,
Bred of unkindly fumes, with conscious dreams 1050

Encumber'd, now had left them ; up they rose
As from unrest, and, each the other viewing,
Soon found their eyes how open'd, and their minds
How darken'd ; innocence, that as a veil
Had shadow'd them from knowing ill, was gone ; 1055

Just confidence, and native righteousness,
And honour from about them, naked left
To guilty shame ; he cover'd, but his robe
Uncover'd more. So rose the Danite strong,
Herculean Samson, from the harlot-lap 1060

Of Philistean Dalilah, and waked
Shorn of his strength. They destitute and bare
Of all their virtue ; silent, and in face
Confounded, long they sat, as stricken mute,

Till Adam, though not less than Eve abash'd, 1065
At length gave utterance to these words constrain'd.

O Eve, in evil hour thou didst give ear
To that false worm, of whomsoever taught
To counterfeit Man's voice, true in our fall,
False in our promised rising ; since our eyes 1070
Open'd we find indeed, and find we know
Both good and evil, good lost, and evil got ;
But fruit of knowledge if this be to know ;
Which leaves us naked thus, of honour void,
Of innocence, of faith, of purity, 1075
Our wonted ornaments now soil'd and stain'd,
And in our faces evident the signs
Of foul concupiscence ; whence evil store ;
Even shame, the last of evils : of the first
Be sure then. How shall I behold the face 1080
Henceforth of God or Angel, erst with joy
And rapture so oft beheld ? Those heavenly shapes
Will dazzle now this earthly with their blaze
Insufferably bright. O ! might I here
In solitude live savage, in some glade 1085
Obscured, where highest woods, impenetrable
To star or sun light, spread their umbrage broad
And brown as evening. Cover me, ye Pines !
Ye Cedars, with innumerable boughs
Hide me, where I may never see them more ! 1090
But let us now, as in bad plight, devise
What best may for the present serve to hide
The parts of each from other, that seem most
To shame obnoxious, and unseemliest seen ;
Some tree, whose broad smooth leaves together sew'd.
And girded on our loins, may cover round 1096
Those middle parts, that this new comer, Shame,
There sit not, and reproach us as unclean.

So counsell'd he, and both together went
Into the thickest wood ; there soon they chose 1100

The fig-tree, not that kind for fruit renown'd,
 But such as at this day, to Indians known,
 In Malabar or Decan spreads her arms
 Branching so broad and long, that in the ground
 The bended twigs take root, and daughters grow 1105
 About the mother tree, a pillar'd shade
 High overarch'd, and echoing walks between;
 There oft the Indian herdsman, shunning heat,
 Shelters in cool, and tends his pasturing herds
 At loop-holes cut thro' thickest shade. Those leaves
 They gather'd, broad as Amazonian targe, 1111
 And, with what skill they had, together sew'd,
 To gird their waist; vain covering, if to hide
 Their guilt and dreaded shame! O, how unlike
 To that first naked glory! Such of late 1115
 Columbus found the American, so girt
 With feather'd cincture; naked else, and wild
Among the trees on isles and woody shores.
 Thus fenced, and as they thought, their shame in part
 Cover'd, but not at rest or ease of mind, 1120
 They sat them down to weep; nor only tears
 Rain'd at their eyes, but high winds worse within
 Began to rise, high passions, anger, hate,
 Mistrust, suspicion, discord, and shook sore
 Their inward state of mind, calm region once 1125
 And full of peace, now tost and turbulent:
 For understanding ruled not, and the will
 Heard not her lore, both in subjection now
 To sensual appetite, who from beneath,
 Usurping over sovereign reason, claim'd 1130
 Superior sway: From thus distemper'd breast,
 Adam, estranged in look and alter'd style,
 Speech intermitted thus to Eve renew'd.

Would thou hadst hearken'd to my words, and stay'd
 With me, as I besought thee, when that strange 1135
 Desire of wandering this unhappy morn,

I know not whence possess'd thee ; we had then
Remain'd still happy ; not, as now, despoil'd
Of all our good, shamed, naked, miserable.
Let none henceforth seek needless cause to approve
The faith they owe ; when earnestly they seek 1141
Such proof, conclude, they then begin to fail.

To whom, soon moved with touch of blame, thus Eve.
What words have pass'd thy lips, Adam severe !
Imputest thou that to my default, or will 1145
Of wandering, as thou callst it, which who knows
But might as ill have happen'd thou being by,
Or to thyself perhaps ? Hadst thou been there,
Or here the attempt, thou couldst not have discern'd
Fraud in the Serpent, speaking as he spake ; 1150
No ground of enmity between us known,
Why he should mean me ill, or seek to harm.
Was I to have never parted from thy side ?
As good have grown there still a lifeless rib.
Being as I am, why didst not thou, the head, 1155
Command me absolutely not to go,
Going into such danger, as thou saidst ?
Too facile then, thou didst not much gainsay ;
Nay didst permit, approve, and fair dismiss.
Hadst thou been firm and fix'd in thy dissent, 1160
Neither had I transgress'd, nor thou with me.

To whom then first incensed, Adam replied.
Is this the love, is this the recompense
Of mine to thee, ingrateful Eve ! express'd
Immutable, when thou wert lost, not I ; 1165
Who might have lived, and joy'd immortal bliss,
Yet willingly chose rather death with thee ?
And am I now upbraided as the cause
Of thy transgressing ? not enough severe,
It seems, in thy restraint : what could I more ?
I warn'd thee, I admonish'd thee, foretold 1171
The danger, and the lurking enemy

The evening cool ; when he, from wrath more cool, 95
 Came the mild Judge, and Intercessor both,
 To sentence Man : The voice of God they heard
Now walking in the garden, by soft winds
Brought to their ears, while day declined ; they heard,
 And from his presence hid themselves among 100
 The thickest trees, both man and wife ; till God,
 Approaching, thus to Adam call'd aloud.

Where art thou, Adam, wont with joy to meet
 My coming seen far off ? I miss thee here,
 Not pleased, thus entertain'd with solitude, 105
 Where obvious duty ere while appear'd unsought :
 Or come I less conspicuous, or what change
 Absents thee, or what chance detains ? Come forth !

He came, and with him Eve, more loth, though first
 To offend : discountenanced both, and discomposed :
 Love was not in their looks, either to God, 111
 Or to each other ; but apparent guilt,
 And shame, and perturbation, and despair,
 Anger and obstinacy, and hate, and guile.
 Whence Adam, faltering long, thus answer'd brief :

I heard thee in the garden, and of thy voice 116
 Afraid, being naked, hid myself. To whom
 The gracious Judge without revile replied :

My voice thou oft hast heard, and hast not fear'd,
 But still rejoiced ; how is it now become 120
 So dreadful to thee ? That thou art naked, who
 Hath told thee ? Hast thou eaten of the tree,
 Whereof I gave thee charge thou shouldst not eat ?

To whom thus Adam sore beset replied :
 O Heaven ! in evil straight this day I stand 125
 Before my Judge ; either to undergo
 Myself the total crime, or to accuse
 My other self, the partner of my life ;
 Whose failing, while her faith to me remains,
 I should conceal, and not expose to blame 130

By my complaint ; but strict necessity
Subdues me, and calamitous constraint ;
Lest on my head both sin and punishment,
However unsupportable, be all
Devolved ; though should I hold my peace, yet thou
Wouldst easily detect what I conceal. 136

This Woman, whom thou madest to be my help,
And gavest me as thy perfect gift, so good,
So fit, so acceptable, so divine,
That from her hand I could suspect no ill, 140
And what she did, whatever in itself,
Her doing seem'd to justify the deed ;
She gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

To whom the sovereign Presence thus replied.
Was she thy God, that her thou didst obey 145
Before his voice ? or was she made thy guide,
Superior, or but equal, that to her
Thou didst resign thy manhood, and the place
Wherein God set thee above her made of thee,
And for thee, whose perfection far excell'd 150
Hers in all real dignity ? Adorn'd
She was indeed, and lovely, to attract
Thy love, not thy subjection ; and her gifts
Were such, as under government well seem'd ;
Unseemly to bear rule ; which was thy part 155
And person, hadst thou known thyself aright.

So having said, he thus to Eve in few.
Say, Woman, What is this which thou hast done ?

To whom sad Eve, with shame nigh overwhelm'd,
Confessing soon, yet not before her Judge 160
Bold or loquacious, thus abash'd replied.
The Serpent me beguiled, and I did eat.

Which when the Lord God heard, without delay
To judgment he proceeded on the accused
Serpent, though brute ; unable to transfer 165
The guilt on him who made him instrument

Of mischief, and polluted from the end
Of his creation ; justly then accursed,
As vitiated in nature : More to know
Concern'd not Man (since he no further knew) 170
Nor alter'd his offence ; yet God at last
To Satan first in sin his doom applied,
Though in mysterious terms, judged as then best ;
And on the serpent thus his curse let fall.

Because thou hast done this, thou art accursed 175
Above all cattle, each beast of the field ;
Upon thy belly groveling thou shalt go,
And dust shalt eat all the days of thy life.
Between thee and the Woman I will put
Enmity, and between thine and her seed ; 180
Her seed shall bruise thy head, thou bruise his heel.

So spake this oracle, then verified
When Jesus, son of Mary, second Eve,
Saw Satan fall like lightning down from Heaven,
Prince of the air ; then, rising from his grave, 185
Spoil'd Principalities and Powers, triumph'd
In open show ; and, with ascension bright,
Captivity led captive through the air,
The realm itself of Satan, long usurp'd ;
Whom he shall tread at last under our feet ; 190
Even he, who now foretold his fatal bruise ;
And to the Woman thus his sentence turn'd.

Thy sorrow I will greatly multiply
By thy conception ; children thou shalt bring
In sorrow forth ; and to thy husband's will 195
Thine shall submit ; he over thee shall rule.

On Adam last thus judgment he pronounced.
Because thou hast hearken'd to the voice of thy wife,
And eaten of the tree, concerning which
I charged thee, saying, thou shalt not eat thereof : 200
Cursed is the ground for thy sake ; thou in sorrow
Shalt eat thereof, all the days of thy life ;

Thorns also and thistles it shall bring thee forth
Unbid ; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.
In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread 205
Till thou return unto the ground ; for thou
Out of the ground wast taken, know thy birth,
For dust thou art, and shalt to dust return.

So judged he Man, both Judge and Saviour sent ;
And the instant stroke of death, denounced that day
Removed far off ; then, pitying how they stood 211
Before him naked to the air, that now
Must suffer change, disdain'd not to begin
Thenceforth the form of servant to assume ;
As when he wash'd his servants' feet ; so now, 215
As father of his family, he clad
Their nakedness with skins of beasts, or slain,
Or as the snake with youthful coat repaid ;
And thought not much to clothe his enemies :
Nor he their outward only with the skins 220
Of beasts, but inward nakedness, much more
Opprobrious, with his robe of righteousness,
Arraying, cover'd from his Father's sight.
To him with swift ascent he up return'd,
Into his blissful bosom reassumed 225
In glory as of old : to him appeased
All, though all-knowing, what had pass'd with Man
Recounted, mixing intercession sweet.

Meanwhile, ere thus was sinn'd and judged on Earth,
Within the gates of Hell sat Sin and Death, 230
In counterview within the gates, that now
Stood open wide, belching outrageous flame
Far into Chaos, since the Fiend pass'd through,
Sin opening ; who thus now to Death began.

O Son, why sit we here each other viewing 235
Idly, while Satan, our great author, thrives
In other worlds, and happier seat provides
For us, his offspring dear ? It cannot be

But that success attends him ; if mishap,
 Ere this he had return'd, with fury driven 240
 By his avengers ; since no place like this
 Can fit his punishment, or their revenge.
 Methinks I feel new strength within me rise,
 Wings growing, and dominion given me large
 Beyond this deep ; whatever draws me on, 245
 Or sympathy, or some connatural force,
 Powerful at greatest distance to unite,
 With secret amity, things of like kind,
 By secretest conveyance. Thou, my shade
 Inseparable, must with me along : 250
 For Death from Sin no power can separate.
 But, lest the difficulty of passing back
 Stay his return perhaps over this gulf
 Impassable, impervious ; let us try
 Adventurous work, yet to thy power and mine 255
 Not unagreeable, to found a path
 Over this main from Hell to that new world
 Where Satan now prevails ; a monument
 Of merit high to all the infernal host,
 Easing their passage hence, for intercourse, 260
 Or transmigration, as their lot shall lead.
 Nor can I miss the way, so strongly drawn
 By this new-felt attraction and instinct.

Whom thus the meagre Shadow answer'd soon.
 Go, whither fate and inclination strong 265
 Leads thee ; I shall not lag behind, nor err
 The way, thou leading ; such a scent I draw
 Of carnage, prey innumerable, and taste
 The savour of Death from all things there that live :
 Nor shall I to the work thou enterprisest 270
 Be wanting, but afford thee equal aid.

So saying, with delight he snuff'd the smell
Of mortal change on Earth. As when a flock
 Of ravenous fowl, though many a league remote,

Against the day of battle, to a field, 275
Where armies lie encamp'd, come flying, lured
With scent of living carcasses design'd
For death, the following day, in bloody fight:
So scented the grim Feature, and upturn'd
His nostril wide into the murky air, 280
Sagacious of his quarry from so far.
Then both from out Hell-gates, into the waste
Wide anarchy of Chaos, damp and dark,
Flew diverse, and with power (their power was great)
Hovering upon the waters, what they met 285
Solid or slimy, as in raging sea,
Tost up and down, together crowded drove
From each side shoaling, towards the mouth of Hell:
As when two polar winds, blowing adverse
Upon the Cronian sea, together drive 290
Mountains of ice, that stop the imagined way
Beyond Petsora eastward, to the rich
Cathaian coast. The aggregated soil
Death with his mace petrific, cold and dry,
As with a trident smote, and fix'd as firm 295
As Delos floating once; the rest his look
Bound with Gorgonian rigour not to move;
And with Asphaltic slime, broad as the gate,
Deep to the roots of Hell the gather'd beach
They fasten'd, and the mole immense wrought on 300
Over the foaming deep high-arch'd, a bridge
Of length prodigious, joining to the wall
Immoveable of this now fenceless world
Forfeit to Death; from hence a passage broad,
Smooth, easy, inoffensive, down to Hell. 305
So, if great things to small may be compared,
Xerxes, the liberty of Greece to yoke,
From Susa, his Memnonian palace high,
Came to the sea, and, over Hellespont
Bridging his way, Europe with Asia join'd, 310

And scourged with many a stroke the indignant waves.
Now had they brought the work; by wondrous art
Pontifical, a ridge of pendant rock
Over the vex'd abyss, following the tract
Of Satan to the self-same place where he 315
First lighted from his wing, and landed safe
From out of Chaos, to the outside bare
Of this round world; with pins of adamant,
And chains they made all fast, too fast they made
And durable: And now, in little space, 320
The confines met of empyrean Heaven
And of this World; and, on the left hand, Hell,
With long reach interposed; three several ways
In sight, to each of these three places led.
And now their way to Earth they had descried, 325
To Paradise first tending; when, behold,
Satan, in likeness of an Angel bright,
Betwixt the Centaur and the Scorpion steering
His zenith, while the sun in Aries rose:
Disguised he came, but those his children dear 330
Their parent soon discern'd, though in disguise.
He after Eve seduced, unminded slunk
Into the wood fast by; and, changing shape,
To observe the sequel, saw his guileful act
By Eve, though all unweeting, seconded 335
Upon her husband; saw their shame, that sought
Vain covertures; but, when he saw descend
The Son of God to judge them, terrified
He fled; not hoping to escape, but shun
The present; fearing, guilty, what his wrath 340
Might suddenly inflict; that passed, return'd
By night, and listening where the hapless pair
Sat in their sad discourse, and various plaint,
Thence gather'd his own doom; which understood
Not instant, but of future time, with joy 345
And tidings fraught, to Hell he now return'd;

And at the brink of Chaos, near the foot
Of this new wonderful pontifice, unhop'd
Met, who to meet him came, his offspring dear.
Great joy was at their meeting, and at sight 350
Of that stupendous bridge, his joy increased.
Long he admiring stood, till Sin, his fair
Inchanting daughter, thus the silence broke.

O Parent, these are thy magnific deeds,
Thy trophies, which thou viewst as not thine own;
Thou art their author, and prime architect, 356
For I no sooner in my heart divined,
My heart, which by a secret harmony
Still moves with thine, join'd in connection sweet,
That thou on Earth hadst prosper'd, which thy looks
Now also evidence, but straight I felt, 361
Though distant from thee, worlds between, yet felt,
That I must after thee with this thy son;
Such fatal consequence unites us three!
Hell could no longer hold us in her bounds, 565
Nor this unvoyageable gulf obscure
Detain from following thy illustrious tract.
Thou hast achieved our liberty, confined
Within Hell-gates till now; thou hast empower'd
To fortify thus far, and overlay 370
With this portentous bridge the dark abyss.
Thine now is all this world; thy virtue hath won
What thy hands builded not; thy wisdom gain'd,
With odds, what war hath lost, and fully avenged
Our foil in Heaven; here thou shalt monarch reign,
There didst not; there let him still victor sway, 376
As battle hath adjudged; from this new world
Retiring, by his own doom alienated;
And henceforth monarchy with thee divide
Of all things parted by the empyreal bounds, 380
His quadrature, from thy orbicular world;
Or try thee, now more dangerous to his throne.

Whom thus the Prince of Darkness answer'd glad.
 Fair Daughter, and thou Son and Grand-child both,
 High proof ye now have given to be the race 385
 Of Satan, (for I glory in the name,
 Antagonist of Heaven's Almighty King),
 Amply have merited of me, of all
 The infernal empire, that so near Heaven's door
 Triumphal with triumphal act have met, 390
 Mine, with this glorious work, and made one realm,
 Hell and this world, one realm, one continent
 Of easy thoroughfare. Therefore, while I
 Descend through darkness, on your road with ease,
 To my associate Powers, them to acquaint 395
 With these successes, and with them rejoice ;
 You two this way, among these numerous orbs,
 All yours, right down to Paradise descend ;
 There dwell, and reign in bliss ; thence on the Earth
 Dominion exercise and in the air. 400
 Chiefly on Man, sole Lord of all declared ;
 Him first make sure your thrall, and lastly kill.
 My substitutes I send ye, and create
 Plenipotent on Earth, of matchless might
 Issuing from me : on your joint vigour now 405
 My hold of this new kingdom all depends,
 Through Sin to Death exposed by my exploit.
 If your joint power prevail, the affairs of Hell
 No detriment need fear ; go, and be strong. 409

So saying he dismiss'd them ; they with speed
Their course through thickest constellations held,
Spreading their bane ; the blasted stars look'd wan,
And planets, planet-struck, real eclipse
Then suffer'd. The other way Satan went down
 The causeway to Hell-gate ; on either side 415
Disparted Chaos over-built exclaim'd,
And with rebounding surge the bars assail'd,
That scorn'd his indignation : Through the gate,

Wide open, and unguarded, Satan pass'd,
And all about found desolate ; for those, 420
Appointed to sit there, had left their charge,
Flown to the upper world ; the rest were all
Far to the inland retired, about the walls
Of Pandemonium, city and proud seat
Of Lucifer, so by allusion call'd, 425
Of that bright star to Satan paragon'd ;
There kept their watch the legions, while the Grand
In council sat, solicitous what chance
Might intercept their emperor sent ; so he
Departing gave command, and they observed. 430
As when the Tartar from his Russian foe,
By Astracan, over the snowy plains,
Retires ; or Bactrian Sophi, from the horns
Of Turkish Crescent, leaves all waste beyond
The realm of Aladule, in his retreat 435
To Tauris or Casbin : So these, the late
Heaven banish'd host, left desert utmost Hell
Many a dark league, reduced in careful watch
Round their metropolis ; and now expecting
Each hour their great adventurer, from the search 440
Of foreign worlds : He through the midst unmark'd,
In shew plebeian Angel militant
Of lowest order pass'd ; and from the door
Of that Plutonian hall, invisible
Ascended his high throne ; which, under state 445
Of richest texture spread, at the upper end
Was placed, in regal lustre. Down awhile
He sat, and round about him saw, unseen :
At last, as from a cloud, his fulgent head
And shape star-bright appear'd, or brighter ; clad 450
With what permissive glory since his fall
Was left him, or false glitter : All amazed
At that so sudden blaze, the Stygian throng
Bent their aspect, and whom they wish'd beheld,

Their mighty Chief return'd: loud was the acclaim:
 Forth rush'd in haste the great consulting Peers, 456
 Raised from their dark Divan, and with like joy
 Congratulant approach'd him; who with hand
 Silence, and with these words, attention won.

Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers;
 For in possession such not only of right, 461
 I call ye, and declare ye now; return'd
 Successful beyond hope, to lead ye forth
 Triumphant out of this infernal pit
 Abominable, accursed, the house of woe, 465
 And dungeon of our tyrant: Now possess,
 As Lords, a spacious world; to our native Heaven
 Little inferior, by my adventure hard
 With peril great achieved. Long were to tell
 What I have done, what suffer'd; with what pain
 Voyaged the unreal, vast, unbounded deep 471
 Of horrible confusion; over which,
 By Sin and Death a broad way now is paved,
 To expedite your glorious march: but I
 Toil'd out my uncouth passage, forced to ride 475
 The untractable abyss, plunged in the womb
 Of unoriginal Night and Chaos wild;
 That, jealous of their secrets, fiercely opposed
 My journey strange, with clamorous uproar
 Protesting Fate supreme; thence how I found 480
 The new-created world, which fame in Heaven
 Long had foretold, a fabric wonderful
 Of absolute perfection, therein Man
 Placed in a Paradise, by our exile
 Made happy: Him by fraud I have seduced 485
 From his Creator; and, the more to increase
 Your wonder, with an apple; he, thereat
 Offended, worth your laughter, hath given up
 Both his beloved Man and all his world
 To Sin and Death a prey, and so to us, 490

Without our hazard, labour, or alarm ;
To range in, and to dwell, and over Man
To rule, as over all he should have ruled.
True is, me also he hath judged, or rather
Me not, but the brute serpent in whose shape 495
Man I deceived : that which to me belongs
Is enmity, which he will put between
Me and Mankind ; I am to bruise his heel ;
His seed, when is not set, shall bruise my head ;
A world who would not purchase with a bruise, 500
Or much more grievous pain ? Ye have the account
Of my performance : What remains, ye Gods,
But up, and enter now into full bliss.
So having said, awhile he stood, expecting
Their universal shout and high applause 505
To fill his ear ; when, contrary, he hears
On all sides, from innumerable tongues,
A dismal universal hiss, the sound
Of public scorn ; he wonder'd, but not long
Had leisure, wondering at himself now more ; 510
His visage drawn he felt to sharp and spare ;
His arms clung to his ribs : his legs entwining
Each other, till supplanted down he fell,
A monstrous serpent on his belly prone,
Reluctant, but in vain ; a greater power 515
Now ruled him, punished in the shape he sinn'd,
According to his doom : He would have spoke,
But hiss for hiss return'd with forked tongue
To forked tongue : for, now were all transform'd
Alike, to serpents all, as accessories 520
To his bold riot, dreadful was the din
Of hissing through the hall, thick swarming now
With complicated monsters head and tail,
Scorpion, and Asp, and Amphisbæna dire,
Cerastes horn'd, Hydrus, and Elops drear, 525
And Dipsas ; not so thick swarm'd once the soil

Bedropp'd with blood of Gorgon, or the isle
 Ophiusa; but still greatest he the midst,
 Now Dragon grown, larger than whom the sun
 Ingender'd in the Pythian vale on slime, 530
 Huge Python, and his power no less he seem'd
 Above the rest still to retain; they all
 Him follow'd, issuing forth to the open field,
 Where all yet left of that revolted rout
 Heaven fallen, in station stood or just array; 535
 Sublime with expectation when to see
 In triumph issuing forth their glorious Chief;
 They saw, but other sight instead, a crowd
 Of ugly serpents; horror on them fell,
 And horrid sympathy; for, what they saw, 540
 They felt themselves now changing; down their arms,
 Down fell both spear and shield; down they as fast,
 And the dire hiss renew'd, and the dire form
 Catch'd by contagion; like in punishment, 544
 As in their crime. Thus was the applause they meant,
 Turn'd to exploding hiss, triumph to shame
 Cast on themselves from their own mouths. Therestood
 A grove hard by, sprung up with this their change,
 His will who reigns above, to aggravate
 Their penance, laden with fair fruit, like that 550
 Which grew in Paradise, the bait of Eve
 Used by the Tempter; on that prospect strange
 Their earnest eyes they fix'd; imagining
 For one forbidden tree a multitude
 Now risen, to work them further woe or shame; 555
 Yet, parch'd with scalding thirst, and hunger fierce,
 Though to delude them sent, could not abstain;
 But on they rolled in heaps, and, up the trees
 Climbing, sat thicker than the snaky locks
 That curled Megara; greedily they pluck'd 560
 The fruitage fair to sight, like that which grew
 Near that bituminous lake where Sodom flamed;

This more delusive ; not the touch, but taste
Deceived ; they, fondly thinking to allay
Their appetite with gust, instead of fruit 565
Chew'd bitter ashes, which the offended taste
With spattering noise rejected : oft they assay'd,
Hunger and thirst constraining ; drugg'd as oft
With hatefullest disrelish writhed their jaws
With soot and cinders fill'd ; so oft they fell 570
Into the same illusion, not as Man, [plagued
Whom they triumph'd once lapsed. Thus were they
And worn with famine long, and ceaseless hiss,
Till their lost shape, permitted they resumed ;
Yearly enjoin'd, some say, to undergo 575
This annual humbling certain number'd days,
To dash their pride, and joy, for Man seduced.
However, some tradition they dispersed
Among the heathen of their purchase got,
And fabled how the serpent, whom they call'd 580
Ophion, with Eurynome, the wide
Encroaching Eve perhaps, had first the rule
Of high Olympus ; thence by Saturn driven
And Ops, ere yet Dictæan Jove was born.

Meanwhile in Paradise the hellish pair 585
Too soon arrived ; Sin, there in power before,
Once actual ; now in body, and to dwell
Habitual habitant ; behind her Death,
Close following pace for pace, not mounted yet
On his pale horse ; to whom Sin thus began. 590

Second of Satan sprung, all-conquering Death,
What thinkst thou of our empire now, tho' earn'd
With travel difficult, not better far
Than still at Hell's dark threshold to have sat watch,
Unnamed, undreaded, and thyself half starved. 595

Whom thus the Sin-born monster answer'd soon.
To me, who with eternal famine pine,
Alike is Hell, or Paradise, or Heaven ;

There best, where most with ravine I may meet;
 Where here, though plenteous, all too little seems 600
 To stuff this maw, this vast unhide-bound corpse.

To whom the incestuous mother thus replied.
 Thou therefore on these herbs, and fruits, and flowers,
 Feed first; on each beast next, and fish, and fowl;
 No homely morsels; and, whatever thing 605
 The sithe of Time mows down, devour unspared;
 Till I, in Man residing, through the race,
 His thoughts, his looks, words, actions, all infect,
 And season him thy last and sweetest prey.

This said, they both betook them several ways,
 Both to destroy, or unimmortal make 611
 All kinds, and for destruction to mature
 Sooner or later; which the Almighty seeing,
 From his transcendent seat the Saints among,
 To those bright Orders utter'd thus his voice. 615

See with what heat these dogs of Hell advance
 To waste and havock yonder world, which I
 So fair and good created; and had still
 Kept in that state, had not the folly of Man
 Let in these wasteful furies, who impute 620
 Folly to me; so doth the prince of Hell
 And his adherents, that with so much ease
 I suffer them to enter and possess
 A place so heavenly; and, conniving, seem
 To gratify my scornful enemies, 625
 That laugh, as if, transported with some fit
 Of passion, I to them had quitted all,
 At random yielded up to their misrule;
 And know not that I call'd and drew them thither
 My Hell-hounds, to lick up the draff and filth 630
 Which Man's polluting sin with taint hath shed
 On what was pure; till, cramm'd and gorged, nigh burst
 With suck'd and glutted offal, at one sling
 Of thy victorious arms, well-pleasing Son,

Both Sin, and Death, and yawning Grave, at last 635
Through Chaos hurl'd, obstruct the mouth of Hell
For ever, and seal up his ravenous jaws.

Then Heaven and Earth renew'd shall be made pure
To sanctity, that shall receive no stain:

Till then, the curse pronounced on both precedes. 640

He ended, and the heavenly audience loud
Sung Halleluiah, as the sound of seas,

Through multitude that sung: Just are thy ways,
Righteous are thy decrees on all thy works;

Who can extenuate thee? Next, to the Son, 645

Destined Restorer of mankind, by whom

New Heaven and Earth shall to the ages rise,

Or down from Heaven descend. Such was their song;

While the Creator, calling forth by name

His mighty Angels, gave them several charge, 650

As sorted best with present things. The sun

Had first his precept so to move, so shine,

As might affect the earth with cold and heat.

Scarce tolerable; and from the north to call

Decrepit winter; from the south to bring 655

Solstitial summer's heat. To the blanc moon

Her office they prescribed: to the other five

Their planetary motions and aspects

In sextile, square, and trine, and opposite,

Of noxious efficacy, and when to join 660

In synod unbenign; and taught the fix'd

Their influence malignant when to shower,

Which of them rising with the sun, or falling,

Should prove tempestuous: To the winds they set

Their corners, when with bluster to confound 665

Sea, air, and shore; the thunder when to roll

With terror through the dark aërial hall.

Some say, he bid his Angels turn askance

The poles of earth twice ten degrees and more,

From the sun's axle; they with labour push'd 670

Oblique the centric globe: Some say, the sun
 Was bid turn reins from the equinoctial road
 Like distant breadth to Taurus with the seven
 Atlantic Sisters, and the Spartan Twins,
 Up to the Tropic Crab; thence down amain 675
 By Leo, and the Virgin, and the Scales,
 As deep as Capricorn; to bring in change
 Of seasons to each clime; else had the spring
 Perpetual smiled on earth with verdant flowers,
 Equal in days and nights, except to those 680
 Beyond the polar circles; to them day
 Had unbenighted shone, while the low sun,
 To recompense his distance, in their sight
 Had rounded still the horizon, and not known
 Or east or west; which had forbid the snow 685
 From cold Estotiland, and south as far
 Beneath Magellan. At that tasted fruit
The sun, as from Thyestian banquet, turn'd
His course intended; else, how had the world
 Inhabited, though sinless, more than now, 690
 Avoided pinching cold and scorching heat?
 These changes in the Heavens, though slow, produced
 Like change on sea and land; sideral blast,
Vapour, and mist, and exhalation hot,
Corrupt and pestilent: Now, from the north 695
Of Norumbega, and the Samoed shore,
Bursting their brazen dungeon, arm'd with ice,
And snow, and hail, and stormy gust and flaw,
Boreas, and Cæcias, and Argestes loud,
And Thrascias, rend the woods, and seas upturn; 700
With adverse blast upturns them from the south
Notus and Afer black with thunderous clouds
From Serralliona; thwart of these, as fierce,
Forth rush the Levant and the Ponent winds,
Eurus and Zephyr, with their lateral noise, 705
Sirocco, and Libecchio. Thus began

Outrage from lifeless things ; but Discord first,
Daughter of Sin, among the irrational,
Death introduced, through fierce antipathy : 709
Beast now with beast 'gan war, and fowl with fowl,
And fish with fish ; to graze the herb all leaving,
Devour'd each other ; nor stood much in awe
Of Man, but fled him ; or, with countenance grim,
Glared on him passing. These were from without
The growing miseries, which Adam saw 715
Already in part, though hid in gloomiest shade,
To sorrow abandon'd, but worse felt within :
And, in a troubled sea of passion tost,
Thus to disburden sought with sad complaint.

O miserable of happy ! Is this the end 720
Of this new glorious world, and me so late
The glory of that glory, who now become
Accursed of blessed ? hide me from the face
Of God, whom to behold was then my height
Of happiness ! yet well if here would end 725
The misery ; I deserved it, and would bear
My own deservings ; but this will not serve ;
All that I eat or drink, or shall beget,
Is propagated curse. O voice, once heard
Delightfully, *Increase and multiply*, 730
Now death to hear ! for what can I increase,
Or multiply, but curses on my head ?
Who of all ages to succeed, but feeling
The evil on him brought by me, will curse
My head ? Ill fare our ancestor impure, 735
For this we may thank Adam ! but his thanks
Shall be the execration ; so, besides
Mine own that bide upon me, all from me
Shall with a fierce reflux on me rebound ;
On me, as on their natural centre, light 740
Heavy, though in their place. O fleeting joys
Of Paradise, dear bought with lasting woes !

On my defenceless head; both death and I 815
Are found eternal, and incorporate both;
Nor I on my part single; in me all
Posterity stands cursed: Fair patrimony
That I must leave ye, Sons! O, were I able
To waste it all myself, and leave ye none! 820
So disinherited, how would ye bless
Me, now your curse! Ah, why should all mankind,
For one Man's fault thus guiltless be condemn'd,
If guiltless? But from me what can proceed,
But all corrupt; both mind and will depraved, 825
Not to do only, but to will the same
With me? How can they then acquitted stand
In sight of God? Him, after all disputes,
Forced I absolve: all my evasions vain, 829
And reasonings, though through mazes, lead me still
But to my own conviction: first and last
On me, me only, as the source and spring
Of all corruption, all the blame lights due;
So might the wrath! Fond wish! couldst thou support
That burden heavier than the earth to bear; 835
Than all the world much heavier, though divided
With that bad Woman? Thus, what thou desirest,
And what thou fearest, alike destroys all hope
Of refuge, and concludes thee miserable
Beyond all past example and future; 840
To Satan only like both crime and doom.
O Conscience! into what abyss of fears
And horrors hast thou driven me; out of which
I find no way, from deep to deeper plunged!
Thus Adam to himself lamented loud 845
Through the still night: not now, as ere Man fell,
Wholesome, and cool, and mild, but with black air
Accompanied, with damps, and dreadful gloom;
Which to his evil conscience represented
All things with double terror: On the ground 850

Outstretch'd he lay, on the cold ground ; and oft
Curs'd his creation ; Death as oft accused
Of tardy execution, since denounced
The day of his offence. Why comes not Death,
Said he, with one thrice acceptable stroke 855
To end me ? Shall Truth fail to keep her word,
Justice Divine not hasten to be just ?
But Death comes not at call ; Justice Divine
Mends not her slowest pace for prayers or cries.
O woods, O fountains, hillocks, dales, and bowers ! 860
With other echo late I taught your shades
To answer and resound far other song.—
Whom thus afflicted when sad Eve beheld,
Desolate where she sat, approaching nigh,
Soft words to his fierce passion she assay'd : 865
But her with stern regard he thus repell'd.

Out of my sight, thou Serpent ! That name best
Befits thee with him leagued, thyself as false
And hateful ; nothing wants, but that thy shape,
Like his, and colour serpentine, may show 870
Thy inward fraud ; to warn all creatures from thee
Henceforth ; lest that too heavenly form, pretended
To hellish falsehood, snare them ! But for thee
I had persisted happy ; had not thy pride
And wandering vanity, when least was safe, 875
Rejected my forewarning, and disdain'd
Not to be trusted ; longing to be seen,
Though by the Devil himself ; him overweening
To overreach ; but with the Serpent meeting,
Fool'd and beguiled ; by him thou, I by thee, 880
To trust thee from my side ; imagined wise,
Constant, mature, proof against all assaults ;
And understood not all was but a show,
Rather than solid virtue ; all but a rib
Crooked by nature, bent, as now appears, 885
More to the part sinister, from me drawn ;

Well if thrown out, as supernumerary
To my just number found. O! why did God,
Creator wise, that peopled highest Heaven
With Spirits masculine, create at last 890
This novelty on earth, this fair defect
Of nature, and not fill the world at once
With Men, as Angels, without feminine;
Or find some other way to generate
Mankind? This mischief had not then befallen 895
And more that shall befall; innumerable
Disturbances on earth through female snares,
And strait conjunction with this sex: for either
He never shall find out fit mate, but such
As some misfortune brings him, or mistake; 900
Or whom he wishes most shall seldom gain
Through her perverseness, but shall see her gain'd
By a far worse; or, if she love, withheld
By parents; or his happiest choice too late
Shall meet, already link'd and wedlock-bound 905
To a fell adversary, his hate or shame:
Which infinite calamity shall cause
To human life, and household peace confound.

He added not, and from her turn'd; but Eve,
Not so repulsed, with tears that ceased not flowing,
And tresses all disorder'd, at his feet 911
Fell humble; and embracing them, besought
His peace, and thus proceeded in her plaint.

Forsake me not thus, Adam! witness Heaven
What love sincere, and reverence in my heart, 915
I bear thee, and unweeting have offended,
Unhappily deceived! Thy suppliant
I beg, and clasp thy knees; bereave me not,
Whereon I live, thy gentle looks, thy aid,
Thy counsel, in this uttermost distress, 920
My only strength and stay: Forlorn of thee,
Whither shall I betake me, where subsist?

While yet we live, scarce one short hour perhaps,
Between us two let there be peace ; both joining,
As join'd in injuries, one enmity 925
Against a foe by doom express assign'd us,
That cruel Serpent : On me exercise not
Thy hatred for this misery befallen ;
On me already lost, me than thyself
More miserable ! Both have sinn'd ; but thou 930
Against God only, I against God and thee ;
And to the place of judgment will return,
There with my cries importune Heaven, that all
The sentence, from thy head removed, may light
On me, sole cause to thee of all this woe ; 935
Me, me only, just object of his ire !

She ended weeping, and her lowly plight,
Immoveable, till peace obtain'd from fault
Acknowledged and deplored, in Adam wrought
Commiseration : Soon his heart relented 940
Towards her, his life so late and sole delight,
Now at his feet submissive in distress ;
Creature so fair his reconciliation seeking,
His counsel, whom she had displeased, his aid :
As one disarm'd, his anger all he lost, 945
And thus with peaceful words upraised her soon.

Unwary, and too desirous, as before,
So now of what thou knowst not, who desirest
The punishment all on thyself ; alas !
Bear thine own first, ill able to sustain 950
His full wrath, whose thou feelst as yet least part,
And my displeasure bearst so ill. If prayers
Could alter high decrees, I to that place
Would speed before thee, and be louder heard,
That on my head all might be visited ; 955
Thy frailty and infirmer sex forgiven,
To me committed, and by me exposed.
But rise ; let us no more contend, nor blame

Each other, blamed enough elsewhere ; but strive,
In offices of love, how we may lighten 960
Each other's burden, in our share of woe ;
Since this day's death denounced, if aught I see,
Will prove no sudden, but a slow-paced evil,
A long day's dying, to augment our pain ;
And to our seed (O hapless seed !) derived. 965
To whom thus Eve, recovering heart, replied.
Adam, by sad experiment I know
How little weight my words with thee can find,
Found so erroneous ; thence by just event
Found so unfortunate : Nevertheless, 970
Restored by thee, vile as I am, to place
Of new acceptance, hopeful to regain
Thy love, the sole contentment of my heart
Living or dying, from thee I will not hide
What thoughts in my unquiet breast are risen, 975
Tending to some relief of our extremes,
Or end ; though sharp and sad, yet tolerable,
As in our evils, and of easier choice.
If care of our descent perplex us most,
Which must be born to certain woe, devour'd 980
By Death at last ; and miserable it is
To be to others cause of misery,
Our own begotten, and of our loins to bring
Into this cursed world a woeful race,
That after wretched life must be at last 985
Food for so foul a monster ; in thy power
It lies, yet ere conception to prevent
The race unblest, to being yet unbegot.
Childless thou art, childless remain : so Death
Shall be deceived his glut, and with us two 990
Be forced to satisfy his ravenous maw.
But if thou judge it hard and difficult,
Conversing, looking, loving, to abstain
From love's due rites, nuptial embraces sweet,

And with desire to languish without hope, 995
Before the present object languishing
With like desire, which would be misery
And torment less than none of what we dread;
Then, both ourselves and seed at once to free
From what we fear for both, let us make short; 1000
Let us seek Death; or, he not found, supply
With our own hands his office on ourselves:
Why stand we longer shivering under fears,
That shew no end but death, and have the power,
Of many ways to die the shortest choosing, 1005
Destruction with destruction to destroy?

She ended here, or vehement despair
Broke off the rest; so much of death her thoughts
Had entertain'd, as dyed her cheeks with pale,
But Adam, with such counsel nothing sway'd, 1010
To better hopes his more attentive mind
Labouring had raised, and thus to Eve replied.

Eve, thy contempt of life and pleasure seems
To argue in thee something more sublime
And excellent than what thy mind contemns; 1015
But self-destruction therefore sought, refutes
That excellence thought in thee; and implies,
Not thy contempt, but anguish and regret
For loss of life and pleasure overloved.
Or if thou covet death, as utmost end 1020
Of misery, so thinking to evade
The penalty pronounced; doubt not but God
Hath wiselier arm'd his vengeful ire, than so
To be forestall'd; much more I fear lest death,
So snatch'd, will not exempt us from the pain 1025
We are by doom to pay; rather such acts
Of contumacy will provoke the Highest
To make death in us live: Then let us seek
Some safer resolution, which methinks
I have in view, calling to mind with heed 1030

Part of our sentence, that thy seed shall bruise
The Serpent's head; piteous amends, unless
Be meant, whom I conjecture, our grand foe,
Satan; who, in the serpent, hath contrived
Against us this deceit: To crush his head 1035
Would be revenge indeed! which will be lost
By death brought on ourselves, or childless days
Resolved as thou proposest; so our foe
Shall 'scape his punishment ordain'd, and we
Instead shall double ours upon our heads. 1040
No more be mention'd then of violence
Against ourselves; and wilful barrenness,
That cuts us off from hope; and savours only
Rancour and pride, impatience and despite,
Reluctance against God and his just yoke 1045
Laid on our necks. Remember with what mild
And gracious temper he both heard, and judged,
Without wrath or reviling; we expected
Immediate dissolution, which we thought
Was meant by death that day; when lo! to thee
Pains only in child-bearing were foretold, 1051
And bringing forth; soon recompensed with joy,
Fruit of thy womb: On me the curse aslope
Glanced on the ground; with labour I must earn
My bread; what harm? Idleness had been worse:
My labour will sustain me; and, lest cold 1056
Or heat should injure us, his timely care
Hath, unbesought, provided; and his hands
Clothed us unworthy, pitying while he judged;
How much more, if we pray him, will his ear 1060
Be open, and his heart to pity incline,
And teach us further by what means to shun
The inclement seasons, rain, ice, hail, and snow?
Which now the sky, with various face, begins
To shew us in this mountain; while the winds 1065
Blow moist and keen, shattering the graceful locks

Of these fair spreading trees ; which bids us seek
Some better shroud, some better warmth to cherish
Our limbs benumb'd, ere this diurnal star
Leave cold the night, how we his gather'd beams 1070
Reflected may with matter sere foment ;
Or by collision of two bodies grind
The air attrite to fire ; as late the clouds
Justling, or push'd with winds, rude in their shock
Tine the slant lightning ; whose thwart flame, driven
Kindles the gummy bark of fir or pine ; [down,
And sends a comfortable heat from far,
Which might supply the sun : Such fire to use,
And what may else be remedy or cure
To evils which our own misdeeds have wrought, 1080
He will instruct us praying, and of grace
Beseeching him ; so as we need not fear
To pass commodiously this life, sustain'd
By him with many comforts, till we end
In dust, our final rest and native home. 1085
What better can we do, than, to the place
Repairing where he judg'd us, prostrate fall
Before him reverent ; and there confess
Humbly our faults, and pardon beg ; with tears
Watering the ground, and with our sighs the air 1090
Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite, in sign
Of sorrow unfeign'd, and humiliation meek ?
Undoubtedly he will relent and turn
From his displeasure ; in whose looks serene,
When angry most he seem'd and most severe, 1095
What else but favour, grace, and mercy shone ?
So spake our Father penitent, nor Eve
Felt less remorse : they forthwith to the place
Repairing where he judg'd them, prostrate fell
Before him reverent ; and both confess'd 1100
Humbly their faults, and pardon begg'd ; with tears
Watering the ground, and with their sighs the air

ARGUMENT.

THE Son of God presents to his Father, the prayers of our first parents now repenting, and intercedes for them : God accepts them, but declares that they must no longer abide in Paradise ; sends Michael with a band of Cherubim to dispossess them ; but first to reveal to Adam future things : Michael's coming down. Adam shews to Eve certain ominous signs ; he discerns Michael's approach : goes out to meet him : the Angel denounces their departure. Eve's lamentation. Adam pleads, but submits : The Angel leads him up to a high hill ; sets before him in vision what shall happen till the flood.

PARADISE LOST.

BOOK XI.

THUS they, in lowliest plight, repentant stood
 Praying; for from the mercy-seat above,
 Prevenient grace descending, had removed
 The stony from their hearts, and made new flesh
 Regenerate grow instead; that sighs now breathed 5
 Unutterable, which the Spirit of prayer
 Inspired, and wing'd for Heaven with speedier flight
 Than loudest oratory: yet their port
 Not of mean suitors; nor important less
 Seem'd their petition, than when the ancient pair 10
 In fables old, less ancient yet than these,
 Deucalion and chaste Pyrrha, to restore
 The race of mankind drown'd, before the shrine
 Of Themis stood devout. To Heaven their prayers
 Flew up, nor miss'd the way, by envious winds 15
 Blown vagabond or frustrate; in they pass'd
 Dimensionless through heavenly doors: then clad
 With incense, where the golden altar fumed,
 By their great Intercessor, came in sight
 Before the Father's throne: them the glad Son 20
 Presenting, thus to intercede began.

Reach also of the tree of life, and eat,
And live for ever, dream at least to live 95
For ever, to remove him I decree,
And send him from the garden forth to till
The ground whence he was taken, fitter soil:

Michael, this my behest have thou in charge;
Take to thee from among the Cherubim 100
Thy choice of flaming warriors, lest the Fiend,
Or in behalf of man, or to invade

Vacant possession, some new trouble raise:
Haste thee, and from the Paradise of God
Without remorse drive out the sinful pair; 105
From hallowed ground the unholy; and denounce
To them, and to their progeny, from thence
Perpetual banishment. Yet, lest they faint
At the sad sentence rigorously urged,
(For I behold them soften'd, and with tears 110
Bewailing their excess), all terror hide.

If patiently thy bidding they obey,
Dismiss them not disconsolate; reveal
To Adam what shall come in future days,
As I shall thee enlighten; intermix 115
My covenant in the Woman's seed renew'd;

So send them forth, though sorrowing, yet in peace:
And on the east side of the garden place,
Where entrance up from Eden easiest climbs,
Cherubic watch; and of a sword the flame 120
Wide-waving; all approach far off to fright,
And guard all passage to the tree of life;
Lest Paradise a receptacle prove

To spirits foul, and all my trees their prey;
With whose stolen fruit man once more to delude. 125

He ceased; and the Arch-Angelic Power prepared
For swift descent; with him the cohort bright
Of watchful Cherubim; four faces each
Had, like a double Janus; all their shape

Spangled with eyes more numerous than those 130
Of Argus, and more wakeful than to drowse,
Charm'd with Arcadian pipe, the pastoral reed
Of Hermes, or his opiate rod. Meanwhile,
To re-salute the world with sacred light
Leucothea waked; and with fresh dews embalm'd 135
The earth; when Adam and first matron Eve
Had ended now their orisons; and found
Strength added from above; new hope to spring
Out of despair; joy, but with fear yet link'd;
Which thus to Eve his welcome words renew'd. 140

Eve, easily may faith admit, that all
The good which we enjoy, from Heaven descends;
But, that from us aught should ascend to Heaven,
So prevalent as to concern the mind
Of God high blest, or to incline his will, 145
Hard to belief may seem; yet this will prayer
Or one short sigh of human breath, upborne
Even to the seat of God. For since I sought
By prayer the offended Deity to appease;
Kneel'd, and before him humbled all my heart; 150
Methought I saw him placable and mild,
Bending his ear; persuasion in me grew
That I was heard with favour; peace return'd
Home to my breast, and to my memory
His promise, that thy seed shall bruise our foe; 155
Which, then not minded in dismay, yet now
Assures me that the bitterness of death
Is past, and we shall live. Whence hail to thee,
Eve rightly call'd, mother of all mankind,
Mother of all things living, since by thee 160
Man is to live; and all things live for Man.

To whom thus Eve with sad demeanour meek.
Ill-worthy I such title should belong
To me transgressor; who, for thee ordain'd
A help, became thy snare; to me reproach 165

Rather belongs, distrust, and all dispraise:
But infinite in pardon was my judge,
That I, who first brought death on all, am graced
The source of life; next favourable thou,
Who highly thus to entitle me vouchsafest, 170
Far other name deserving. But the field
To labour calls us, now with sweat imposed,
Though after sleepless night; for see! the Morn,
All unconcern'd with our unrest, begins
Her rosy progress smiling; let us forth; 175

I never from thy side henceforth to stray,
Where'er our day's work lies; though now enjoin'd
Laborious, till day droop; while here we dwell,
What can be toilsome in these pleasant walks?
Here let us live, though in fallen state, content. 180
So spake, so wish'd much-humbled Eve; but fate
Subscribed not; Nature first gave signs, impress'd
On bird, beast, air; air suddenly eclipsed,
After short blush of morn; nigh in her sight,
The bird of Jove, stoop'd from his airy tour, 185
Two birds of gayest plume before him drove:
Down from a hill the beast that reigns in woods,
First hunter then, pursued a gentle brace,
Goodliest of all the forest, hart and hind;
Direct to the eastern gate was bent their flight. 190
Adam observed, and with his eye the chase
Pursuing, not unmoved to Eve thus spake.

O Eve, some further change awaits us nigh,
Which Heaven by these mute signs in Nature, shows
Forerunners of his purpose: or to warn 195
Us, haply too secure, of our discharge.
From penalty, because from death released
Some days; how long, and what till then our life,
Who knows? Or more than this, that we are dust,
And thither must return, and be no more? 200
Why else this double object in our sight

Of flight pursued in the air, and o'er the ground,
One way the self-same hour? why in the east
Darkness ere day's mid course, and morning light
More orient in yon western cloud, that draws 205
O'er the blue firmament a radiant white;

And slow descends, with something heavenly fraught?

He err'd not; for by this the heavenly bands
Down from a sky of jasper lighted now
In Paradise, and on a hill made halt; 210

A glorious apparition, had not doubt
And carnal fear that day dimm'd Adam's eye.
Not that more glorious, when the Angels met
Jacob in Mahanaim, where he saw
The field pavilion'd with his guardians bright; 215

Nor that, which on the flaming mount appear'd
In Dothan, cover'd with a camp of fire,
Against the Syrian king, who to surprise
One man, assassin-like, had levied war;
War unproclaim'd. The princely Hierarch 220

In their bright stand there left his Powers, to seize
Possession of the garden; he alone,
To find where Adam shelter'd, took his way,
Not unperceived of Adam; who to Eve,
While the great visitant approach'd, thus spake. 225

Eve, now expect great tidings, which perhaps
Of us will soon determine, or impose
New laws to be observed; for I descry,
From yonder blazing cloud that veils the hill,
One of the heavenly host; and by his gait, 230
None of the meanest; some great Potentate,
Or of the Thrones above; such majesty
Invests him coming! yet not terrible,
That I should fear; nor sociably mild,
As Raphael, that I should much confide; 235
But solemn, and sublime; whom not to offend,
With reverence I must meet, and thou retire.

He ended; and the Arch-Angel soon drew nigh,
 Not in his shape celestial, but as man
 Clad to meet man; over his lucid arms 240
A military vest of purple flow'd,
Livelier than Melibœan, or the grain
Of Sarra, worn by kings and heroes old
In time of truce; Iris had dipp'd the woof;
His starry helm unbuckled shew'd him prime 245
In manhood where youth ended; by his side,
As in a glistening zodiac, hung the sword,
Satan's dire dread; and in his hand the spear.
 Adam bow'd low; he, kingly from his state
 Inclined not, but his coming thus declared. 250

Adam, Heaven's high behest no preface needs:
 Sufficient that thy prayers are heard; and Death,
 Then due by sentence when thou didst transgress,
 Defeated of his seizure many days
 Given thee of grace; wherein thou mayst repent, 255
 And one bad act with many deeds well done
 Mayst cover: Well may then thy Lord, appeased,
 Redeem thee quite from Death's rapacious claim;
 But longer in this Paradise to dwell
 Permits not; to remove thee I am come, 260
 And send thee from the garden forth to till
 The ground whence thou wast taken, fitter soil.

He added not; for Adam at the news
 Heart-struck with chilling gripe of sorrow stood,
 That all his senses bound; Eve, who unseen 265
 Yet all had heard, with audible lament
 Discover'd soon the place of her retire.

O unexpected stroke, worse than of death!
 Must I thus leave thee, Paradise? thus leave
 Thee, native soil! these happy walks and shades,
 Fit haunt of Gods? where I had hope to spend, 271
 Quiet though sad, the respite of that day
 That must be mortal to us both. O flowers,

That never will in other climate grow,
My early visitation, and my last 275
At even, which I bred up with tender hand
From the first opening bud, and gave ye names!
Who now shall rear ye to the sun, or rank
Your tribes, and water from the ambrosial fount?
Thee lastly, nuptial bower! by me adorn'd 280
With what to sight or smell was sweet! from thee
How shall I part, and whither wander down
Into a lower world; to this obscure
And wild? How shall we breathe in other air
Less pure, accustom'd to immortal fruits. 285

Whom thus the Angel interrupted mild:
Lament not Eve, but patiently resign
What justly thou hast lost; nor set thy heart,
Thus over fond, on that which is not thine;
Thy going is not lonely; with thee goes 290
Thy husband; him to follow thou art bound;
Where he abides, think there thy native soil.

Adam, by this from the cold sudden damp
Recovering, and his scatter'd spirits return'd,
To Michael thus his humble words address'd. 295

Celestial, whether among the Thrones, or named
Of them the highest; for such of shape may seem
Prince above princes! gently hast thou told
Thy message, which might else in telling wound,
And in performing end us; what besides 300
Of sorrow, and dejection, and despair,
Our frailty can sustain, thy tidings bring,
Departure from this happy place, our sweet
Recess, and only consolation left
Familiar to our eyes! all places else 305
Inhospitable appear, and desolate;
Nor knowing us, nor known: And, if by prayer
Incessant I could hope to change the will
Of Him who all things can, I would not cease

To weary him with my assiduous cries: 310
But prayer against his absolute decree
No more avails than breath against the wind,
Blown stifling back on him that breathes it forth:
Therefore to his great bidding I submit.
This most afflicts me, that departing hence, 315
As from his face I shall be hid, deprived
His blessed countenance: Here I could frequent
With worship place by place where he vouchsafed
Presence Divine; and to my sons relate,
"On this mount he appear'd; under this tree 320
"Stood visible; among these pines his voice
"I heard; here with him at this fountain talk'd:"
So many grateful altars I would rear
Of grassy turf, and pile up every stone
Of lustre from the brook, in memory, 325
Or monument to ages; and thereon
Offer sweet-smelling gums, and fruits and flowers:
In yonder nether world where shall I seek
His bright appearances, or footstep trace?
For though I fled him angry, yet, recall'd 330
To life prolong'd and promised race, I now
Gladly behold, though but his utmost skirts
Of glory; and far off his steps adore.
To whom thus Michael with regard benign.
Adam, thou knowst heaven his, and all the Earth;
Not this rock only; his Omnipresence fills 336
Land, sea, and air, and every kind that lives.
Fomented by his virtual power and warm'd:
All the Earth he gave thee to possess and rule,
No despicable gift! surmise not then 340
His presence to these narrow bounds confined
Of Paradise, or Eden: this had been
Perhaps thy capital seat, from whence had spread
All generations; and had hither come,
From all the ends of the Earth, to celebrate 345

And reverence thee, their great progenitor.
But this pre-eminence thou hast lost, brought down
To dwell on even ground now with thy sons:
Yet doubt not but in valley, and in plain,
God is, as here; and will be found alike 350
Present; and of his presence many a sign
Still following thee, still compassing thee round
With goodness and paternal love, his face
Express, and of his steps the track divine.
Which that thou mayst believe, and be confirm'd
Ere thou from hence depart, know, I am sent 356
To shew thee what shall come in future days
To thee, and to thy offspring, good with bad
Expect to hear; supernal grace contending
With sinfulness of men; thereby to learn 360
True patience, and to temper joy with fear
And pious sorrow; equally enured
By moderation either state to bear,
Prosperous, or adverse: so shalt thou lead
Safest thy life, and best prepared endure 365
Thy mortal passage when it comes.—Ascend
This hill; let Eve (for I have drenched her eyes)
Here sleep below; while thou to foresight wakest;
As once thou sleepst, while she to life was form'd.
To whom thus Adam gratefully replied. 370
Ascend, I follow thee, safe guide, the path
Thou leadst me; and to the hand of Heaven submit,
However chastening; to the evil turn
My obvious breast; arming to overcome
By suffering, and earn rest from labour won, 375
If so I may attain.—So both ascend
In the visions of God. It was a hill,
Of Paradise the highest; from whose top
The hemisphere of earth, in clearest ken,
Stretch'd out to the amplest reach of prospect lay.
Not higher that hill, nor wider looking round, 381

Whereon, for different cause, the Tempter set
Our second Adam, in the wilderness;
To shew him all Earth's kingdoms, and their glory.
His eye might there command wherever stood 385
City of old or modern fame, the seat
Of mightiest empire, from the destined walls
Of Cambalu, seat of Cathaian Can,
And Samarchand by Oxus, Temir's throne;
To Paquin of Sinæan kings; and thence 390
To Agra and Lahor of great Mogul,
Down to the golden Chersonese; or where
The Persian in Ecbatan sat, or since
In Hispahan; or where the Russian Kzar
In Moscow; or the Sultan in Bizance, 395
Turchestan-born; nor could his eye not ken
The empire of Negus, to his utmost port
Ercoco, and the less maritime kings,
Monbaza, and Quiloa, and Melind,
And Sofala, thought Ophir, to the realm 400
Of Congo, and Angola farthest south;
Or thence from Niger flood to Atlas mount
The kingdoms of Almansor, Fez, and Sus,
Morocco, and Algiers, and Tremisen;
On Europe thence, and where Rome was to sway
The world; in spirit perhaps he also saw 406
Rich Mexico, the seat of Montezume,
And Cusco in Peru, the richer seat
Of Atabalipa; and yet unspoild
Guiana, whose great city Geryon's sons 410
Call El Dorado. But to nobler sights
Michael from Adam's eyes the film removed,
Which that false fruit that promised clearer sight
Had bred; then purged with euphrasy and rue
The visual nerve, for he had much to see; 415
And from the well of life three drops instill'd.
So deep the power of these ingredients pierced,

E'en to the inmost seat of mental sight,
That Adam now, enforced to close his eyes,
Sunk down, and all his spirits became entranced; 420
But him the gentle Angel by the hand
Soon raised, and his attention thus recall'd.

Adam, now ope thine eyes; and first behold
The effects which thy original crime hath wrought
In some to spring from thee; who never touch'd 425
The excepted tree; nor with the Snake conspired,
Nor sinn'd thy sin; yet from that sin derive
Corruption, to bring forth more violent deeds.

His eyes he open'd, and beheld a field,
Part arable and tilth, whereon were sheaves 430
New reap'd; the other part sheep-walks and folds;
In the midst an altar as the land-mark stood,
Rustic, of grassy sord; thither anon

A sweaty reaper from his tillage brought
First fruits, the green ear, and the yellow sheaf, 435
Uncull'd, as came to hand; a shepherd next,
More meek, came with the firstlings of his flock,
Choicest and best; then, sacrificing, laid

The inwards and their fat, with incense strow'd,
On the cleft wood, and all due rites perform'd. 440
His offering soon propitious fire from Heaven
Consumed with nimble glance, and grateful steam;
The other's not, for his was not sincere;

Whereat he inly raged, and, as they talk'd,
Smote him into the midriff with a stone 445
That beat out life: he fell; and, deadly pale,
Groan'd out his soul with gushing blood effused.
Much at that sight was Adam in his heart
Dismay'd, and thus in haste to the Angel cried.

O Teacher, some great mischief hath befallen 450
To that meek man, who well hath sacrificed;
Is piety thus and pure devotion paid?

To whom Michael thus, he also moved, replied.
These two are brethren, Adam, and to come
Out of thy loins ; the unjust the just hath slain, 455
For envy that his brother's offering found
From Heaven acceptance ; but the bloody fact
Will be avenged, and the other's faith approved,
Lose no reward, though here thou see him die,
Rolling in dust and gore. To which our Sire. 460

Alas, both for the deed and for the cause!
But have I now seen Death ? Is this the way
I must return to native dust ? O sight
Of terror, foul and ugly to behold,
Horrid to think, how horrible to feel ! 465

To whom thus Michael. Death thou hast seen
In his first shape on Man ; but many shapes
Of death, and many are the ways that lead
To his grim cave, all dismal ; yet to sense
More terrible at the entrance than within. 470
Some, as thou sawst, by violent stroke shall die ;
By fire, flood, famine, by intemperance more
In meats and drinks, which on the earth shall bring
Diseases dire, of which a monstrous crew
Before thee shall appear ; that thou mayst know 475
What misery the inabstinence of Eve

Shall bring on Men. Immediately a place
Before his eyes appear'd, sad, noisome, dark ;
A lazar-house it seem'd ; wherein were laid
Numbers of all diseased, all maladies 480
Of ghastly spasm, or racking torture, qualms
Of heart-sick agony, all feverous kinds,
Convulsions, epilepsies, fierce catarrhs,
Intestine stone and ulcer, cholic pangs,
Demoniac phrenzy, moaping melancholy, 485
And moon-struck madness, pining atrophy,
Marasmus, and wide-wasting pestilence,
Dropsies, and asthmas, and joint-racking rheums.

Dire was the tossing, deep the groans: Despair
Tended the sick busiest from couch to couch; 490
And over them triumphant Death his dart
Shook, but delay'd to strike, though oft invoked
With vows, as their chief good, and final hope.
Sight so deform what heart of rock could long
Dry-eyed behold? Adam could not, but wept, 495
Though not of woman born; compassion quell'd
His best of man, and gave him up to tears
A space, till firmer thoughts restrain'd excess:
And, scarce recovering words, his plaint renew'd.

O miserable mankind, to what fall 500
Degraded, to what wretched state reserved!
Better end here unborn. Why is life given
To be thus wrested from us? rather, why
Obtruded on us thus? who, if we knew
What we receive, would either not accept 505
Life offer'd, or soon beg to lay it down;
Glad to be so dismiss'd in peace. Can thus
The image of God in Man, created once
So goodly and erect, though faulty since,
To such unsightly sufferings be debased 510
Under inhuman pains? Why should not Man,
Retaining still divine similitude
In part, from such deformities be free,
And, for his Maker's image sake, exempt?

Their Maker's image, answer'd Michael, then 515
Forsook them, when themselves they vilified
To serve ungovern'd Appetite; and took
His image whom they served, a brutish vice,
Inductive mainly to the sin of Eve.
Therefore so object is their punishment, 520
Disfiguring not God's likeness, but their own;
Or if his likeness, by themselves debased;
While they pervert pure Nature's healthful rules

To lothsome sickness, worthily, since they
God's image did not reverence in themselves. 525

I yield it just, said Adam, and submit.
But is there yet no other way, besides
These painful passages, how we may come
To death, and mix with our connatural dust?

There is, said Michael, if thou well observe 530
The rule of *Not too much*; by temperance taught,
In what thou eatst and drinkst; seeking from thence
Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight,
Till many years over thy head return:
So mayst thou live; till like ripe fruit thou drop 535
Into thy mother's lap; or be with ease
Gather'd, not harshly pluck'd; for death mature:
This is Old Age; but then, thou must outlive
Thy youth, thy strength, thy beauty; which will change
To withered, weak, and grey; thy senses then, 540
Obtuse, all taste of pleasure must forego,
To what thou hast; and, for the air of youth,
Hopeful and cheerful, in thy blood will reign
A melancholy damp of cold and dry
To weigh thy spirits down, and last consume 545
The balm of life. To whom our ancestor.

Henceforth I fly not death, nor would prolong
Life much; bent rather, how I may be quit
Fairest and easiest of this cumberous charge,
Which I must keep till my appointed day 550
Of rendering up, and patiently attend
My dissolution. Michael replied.

Nor love thy life, nor hate; but what thou livest,
Live well; how long, or short, permit to Heaven:
And now prepare thee for another sight. 555

He look'd, and saw a spacious plain, whereon
Were tents of various hue; by some, were herds
Of cattle grazing; others, whence the sound
Of instruments, that made melodious chime,

Was heard, of harp and organ; and who moved 560
Their stops and chords, was seen; his volant touch,
Instinct through all proportions, low and high,
Fled and pursued transverse the resonant fugue.
In other part stood one who at the forge,
Labouring, two massy clods of iron and brass 565
Had melted, (whether found where casual fire
Had wasted woods on mountain or in vale,
Down to the veins of Earth; thence gliding hot
To some cave's mouth; or whether wash'd by stream
From under ground) the liquid ore he drain'd 570
Into fit moulds prepared; from which he form'd
First his own tools; then, what might else be wrought
Fusile or graven in metal. After these,
But on the hither side, a different sort 574
From the high neighbouring hills, which was their
Down to the plain descended: by their guise [seat,
Just men they seem'd, and all their study bent
To worship God aright, and know his works
Not hid; nor those things last, which might preserve
Freedom and peace to men: they on the plain 580
Long had not walk'd, when, from the tents behold!
A bevy of fair women, richly gay
In gems and wanton dress; to the harp they sung
Soft amorous ditties, and in dance came on.
The men, tho' grave, eyed them, and let their eyes
Rove without rein, till in the amorous net 285
Fast caught, they liked, and each his liking chose;
And now of love they treat, till the evening star,
Love's harbinger, appear'd; then, all in heat,
They light the nuptial torch, and bid invoke 590
Hymen, then first to marriage-rites invoked;
With feast and music all the tents resound.
Such happy interview and fair event,
Of love and youth not lost, songs, garlands, flowers,
And charming symphonies, attach'd the heart 595

Of Adam, soon inclined to admit delight,
The bent of nature ; which he thus express'd.

True opener of mine eyes, prime Angel blest,
Much better seems this vision, and more hope
Of peaceful days portends, than those two past ; 600
Those were of hate and death, or pain much worse ;
Here Nature seems fulfill'd in all her ends.

To whom thus Michael. Judge not what is best
By pleasure, though to nature seeming meet ;
Created, as thou art, to nobler end, 605
Holy and pure, conformity divine.

Those tents thou sawst so pleasant, were the tents
Of wickedness, wherein shall dwell his race
Who slew his brother ; studious they appear
Of arts that polish life, inventors rare, 610
Unmindful of their Maker, though his Spirit
Taught them ; but they his gifts acknowledge none.
Yet they a beauteous offspring shall beget ;
For that fair female troop thou sawst, that seem'd
Of goddesses, so blithe, so smooth, so gay, 615
Yet empty of all good wherein consists
Woman's domestic honour and chief praise ;
Bred only and completed to the taste
Of lustful appetite, to sing, to dance,
To dress, and troll the tongue, and roll the eye ; 620
To these, that sober race of men, whose lives
Religious titled them the sons of God,
Shall yield up all their virtue, all their fame
Ignobly, to the trains and to the smiles,
Of these fair atheists : and now swim in joy, 625
Ere long to swim at large ; and laugh, for which
The world ere long a world of tears must weep.

To whom thus Adam, of short joy bereft.
O pity and shame, that they, who to live well
Enter'd so fair, should turn aside to tread 630
Paths indirect, or in the midway faint !

But still I see the tenor of Man's woe
Holds on the same, from Woman to begin.

From Man's effeminate slackness it begins,
Said the Angel, who should better hold his place
By wisdom, and superior gifts received. 636
But now prepare thee for another scene.

He look'd, and saw wide territory spread
Before him, towns, and rural works between,
Cities of men with lofty gates and towers, 640
Concourse in arms, fierce faces threatening war,
Giants of mighty bone, and bold emprise:

Part wield their arms, part curb the foaming steed,
Single, or in array of battle ranged,

Both horse and foot, nor idly mustering stood; 645
One way a band select from forage drives

A herd of beeves, fair oxen and fair kine,
From a fat meadow ground; or fleecy flock,
Ewes and their bleating lambs over the plain,
Their booty; scarce with life the shepherds fly, 650

But call in aid, which makes a bloody fray;
With cruel tournament the squadrons join;
Where cattle pastured late, now scatter'd lies,
With carcasses and arms, the ensanguined field,
Deserted: others to a city strong 655

Lay siege, encamp'd; by battery, scale, and mine,
Assaulting; others from the wall defend

With dart and javelin, stones, and sulphurous fire;
On each hand slaughter and gigantic deeds.

In other parts the scepter'd heralds call 660
To council, in the city gates: anon

Grey-headed men and grave, with warriors mix'd,
Assemble, and harangues are heard; but soon,

In factious opposition; till at last,
Of middle age one rising, eminent, 665

In wise deport, spake much of right and wrong,
Of justice, of religion, truth, and peace,

And judgment from above : him old and young
Exploded, and had seized with violent hands,
Had not a cloud descending snatch'd him thence 670
Unseen amid the throng ; so violence
Proceeded, and oppression, and sword-law,
Through all the plain, and refuge none was found.
Adam was all in tears, and to his guide
Lamenting turn'd full sad ; O ! what are these, 675
Death's ministers, not men, who thus deal death
Inhumanly to men, and multiply
Ten thousandfold the sin of him who slew
His brother : for of whom such massacre
Make they, but of their brethren, men of men ? 680
But who was that just man, whom had not Heaven
Rescued, had in his righteousness been lost ?

To whom thus Michael. These are the product
Of those ill-mated marriages thou sawst ;
Where good with bad were match'd, who of themselves
Abhor to join ; and by imprudence mix'd, 686
Produce prodigious births of body or mind.
Such were these Giants, men of high renown ;
For in those days might only shall be admired,
And valour and heroic virtue call'd ; 690
To overcome in battle, and subdue
Nations, and bring home spoils with infinite
Manslaughter, shall be held the highest pitch
Of human glory, and for glory done
Of triumph , to be styled great conquerors, 695
Patrons of Mankind, Gods, and sons of Gods,
Destroyers rightlier call'd, and plagues of men.
Thus fame shall be achieved, renown on earth ;
And what most merits fame, in silence hid.
But he, the seventh from thee, whom thou beheldst
The only righteous in a world perverse, 700
And therefore hated, therefore so beset
With foes, for daring single to be just,

And utter odious truth, that God would come
To judge them with his Saints : him the Most High,
Rapt in a balmy cloud, with winged steeds 706
Did, as thou sawst, receive, to walk with God
High in salvation and the climes of bliss,
Exempt from death ; to shew thee what reward
Awaits the good, the rest what punishment ; 710
Which now direct thine eyes, and soon behold.

He look'd, and saw the face of things quite changed ;
The brazen throat of war had ceased to roar :
All now was turn'd to jollity and game,
To luxury and riot, feast and dance, 715
Marrying or prostituting, as befell,
Rape or adultery, where passing fair
Allured them ; thence from cups to civil broils.
At length a reverend Sire among them came,
And of their doings great dislike declared, 720
And testified against their ways ; he oft
Frequented their assemblies, whereso met,
Triumphs or festivals, and to them preach'd
Conversion and repentance, as to souls
In prison, under judgments imminent : 725
But all in vain : which when he saw, he ceased
Contending, and removed his tents far off ;
Then from the mountain hewing timber tall,
Began to build a vessel of huge bulk, 729
Measured by cubit, length, and breadth, and heighth,
Smear'd round with pitch, and in the side a door
Contrived, and of provisions laid in large
For man and beast : when lo, a wonder strange !
Of every beast, and bird, and insect small
Came sevens, and pairs, and entered in as taught 735
Their order : last the Sire, and his three sons,
With their four wives ; and God made fast the door.
Meanwhile the south wind rose, and with black wings
Wide hovering, all the clouds together drove

From under Heaven; the hills to their supply 740
 Vapour, and exhalation dusk and moist,
 Sent up amain; and now the thicken'd sky
 Like a dark ceiling stood; down rush'd the rain
 Impetuous, and continued till the Earth
 No more was seen; the floating vessel swum 745
Uplifted, and secure with beaked prow
Rode tilting o'er the waves; all dwellings else
 Flood overwhelm'd, and them with all their pomp
 Deep under water roll'd; sea cover'd sea,
Sea without shore: and in their palaces, 750
Where luxury late reign'd, sea monsters whelp'd
And stabled; of mankind, so numerous late,
All left, in one small bottom swum embark'd.
 How didst thou grieve then, Adam, to behold
 The end of all thy offspring, end so sad, 755
 Depopulation? thee another flood,
 Of tears and sorrow, a flood thee also drown'd,
 And sunk thee as thy sons; till, gently rear'd
 By the Angel, on thy feet thou stoodst at last,
 Though comfortless; as when a father mourns 760
 His children, all in view destroy'd at once;
 And scarce to the Angel utterdst thus thy plaint.
 O visions ill foreseen! better had I
 Lived ignorant of future, so had borne
 My part of evil only, each day's lot 765
 Enough to bear; those now, that were dispensed
 The burden of many ages, on me light
 At once, by my foreknowledge gaining birth
 Abortive, to torment me ere their being; 769
 With thought that they must be. Let no man seek
 Henceforth to be foretold what shall befall
 Him or his children; evil he may be sure,
 Which neither his foreknowing can prevent;
 And he the future evil shall no less
 In apprehension than in substance feel, 775

Grievous to bear ; but that care now is past,
Man is not whom to warn : those few escaped
Famine and anguish, will at last consume,
Wandering that watery desert. I had hope,
When violence was ceased, and war on earth, 780
All would have then gone well, peace would have
With length of happy days, the race of Man : [crown'd,
But I was far deceived ; for now I see
Peace to corrupt no less than war to waste.
How comes it thus ? unfold, celestial Guide, 785
And whether here the race of Men will end.

To whom thus Michael. Those whom last thou
In triumph and luxurious wealth, are they [sawst
First seen in acts of prowess eminent
And great exploits, but of true virtue void ; 790
Who, having spilt much blood, and done much waste,
Subduing nations, and achieved thereby
Fame in the world, high titles, and rich prey,
Shall change their course to pleasure, ease, and sloth,
Surfeit, and lust, till wantonness and pride 795
Raise out of friendship hostile deeds in peace.
The conquer'd also, and enslaved by war,
Shall, with their freedom lost, all virtue lose
And fear of God ; from whom their piety feign'd,
In sharp contest of battle found no aid 800
Against invaders ; therefore, cool'd in zeal,
Thenceforth shall practise how to live secure,
Worldly or dissolute, on what their lords
Shall leave them to enjoy ; for the Earth shall bear
More than enough, that temperance may be tried :
So all shall turn degenerate, all depraved, 806
Justice and temperance, truth and faith, forgot ;
One man except, the only son of light
In a dark age, against example good,
Against allurement, custom, and a world 810
Offended ; fearless of reproach and scorn,

Or violence, he of their wicked ways
Shall them admonish, and before them set
The paths of righteousness, how much more safe,
And full of peace, denouncing wrath to come 815
On their impenitence ; and shall return
Of them derided, but of God observed
The one just man alive ; by his command
Shall build a wonderous ark, as thou beheldst,
To save himself and household, from amidst 820
A world devote to universal wrack.
No sooner he, with them of man and beast
Select for life, shall in the ark be lodged,
And shelter'd round, but all the cataracts
Of Heaven set open on the Earth shall pour 825
Rain, day and night ; all fountains of the deep,
Broke up, shall heave the ocean to usurp
Beyond all bounds ; till inundation rise
Above the highest hills : Then shall this mount
Of Paradise by might of waves be moved 830
Out of his place, push'd by the horned flood,
With all his verdure spoil'd, and trees adrift,
Down the great river to the opening gulf,
And there take root an island salt and bare,
The haunt of seals, and orcs, and sea-mews clang :
To teach thee that God attributes to place 836
No sanctity, if none be thither brought
By men who there frequent, or therein dwell.
And now, what further shall ensue, behold.
He look'd, and saw the ark-hull on the flood. 840
Which now abated ; for the clouds were fled,
Driven by a keen north-wind, that, blowing dry,
Wrinkled the face of deluge, as 'decay'd ;
And the clear sun on his wide watery glass
Gazed hot, and of the fresh wave largely drew, 845
As after thirst ; which made their flowing shrink
From standing lake to tripping ebb, that stole

With soft foot towards the Deep ; who now had stopt
His sluices, as the Heaven his windows shut.

The ark no more now floats, but seems on ground,
Fast on the top of some high mountain fix'd. 851

And now the tops of hills, as rocks, appear ;
With clamour thence the rapid currents drive,
Towards the retreating sea, their furious tide.

Forthwith from out the ark a raven flies, 855

And after him, the surer messenger,
A dove sent forth once and again to spy
Green tree or ground, whereon his foot may light ;
The second time returning, in his bill

An olive leaf he brings, pacific sign : 860

Anon dry ground appears, and from his ark
The ancient sire descends, with all his train :

Then with uplifted hands, and eyes devout,
Grateful to Heaven, over his head beholds

A dewy cloud, and in the cloud a bow 865

Conspicuous with three listed colours gay,
Betokening peace from God, and covenant new.

Whereat the heart of Adam, erst so sad,
Greatly rejoiced ; and thus his joy broke forth.

O thou, who future things canst represent 870

As present, heavenly Instructor ! I revive
At this last sight ; assured that man shall live,
With all the creatures, and their seed preserve.

Far less I now lament for one whole world
Of wicked sons destroy'd, than I rejoice 875

For one man found so perfect, and so just,
That God vouchsafes to raise another world
From him, and all his anger to forget.

But say, what mean those colour'd streaks in Heaven
Distended, as the brow of God appeased ? 880

Or serve they, as a flowery verge, to bind
The fluid skirts of that same watery cloud,
Lest it again dissolve, and shower the earth ?

Long time in peace, by families and tribes,
Under paternal rule : till one shall rise
Of proud ambitious heart ; who, not content 25
With fair equality, fraternal state,
Will arrogate dominion undeserved
Over his brethren, and quite dispossess
Concord and law of nature from the earth ;
Hunting (and men not beasts shall be his game) 30
With war and hostile snare, such as refuse
Subjection to his empire tyrannous :
A mighty hunter thence he shall be styled
Before the Lord ; as in despite of Heaven,
Or from Heaven claiming second sovereignty ; 35
And from rebellion shall derive his name,
Though of rebellion others he accuse.
He with a crew, whom like ambition joins
With him or under him to tyrannize,
Marching from Eden towards the west, shall find 40
The plain, wherein a black bituminous gurge
Boils out from under ground, the mouth of Hell :
Of brick, and of that stuff, they cast to build
A city and tower, whose top may reach to Heaven ;
And get themselves a name ; lest, far dispersed 45
In foreign lands, their memory be lost ;
Regardless whether good or evil fame.
But God, who oft descends to visit men
Unseen, and through their habitations walks
To mark their doings, them beholding soon, 50
Comes down to see their city, ere the tower
Obstruct Heaven-towers ; and in derision sets
Upon their tongues, a various spirit, to rase
Quite out their native language ; and, instead,
To sow a jangling noise of words unknown : 55
Forthwith a hideous gabble rises loud,
Among the builders ; each to other calls
Not understood ; till hoarse, and all in rage,

As mock'd they storm ; great laughter was in Heaven,
And looking down, to see the hubbub strange, 60
And hear the din : Thus was the building left
Ridiculous, and the work *Confusion* named.

Where to thus Adam, fatherly displeased.
O execrable son ! so to aspire
Above his brethren ; to himself assuming 65
Authority usurp'd, from God not given ;
He gave us only over beast, fish, fowl,
Dominion absolute ; that right we hold
By his donation ; but man over men
He made not lord : such title to himself 70
Reserving, human left from human free.
But this usurper his encroachment proud
Stays not on man ; to God his tower intends
Siege and defiance : Wretched man ! What food
Will he convey up thither, to sustain 75
Himself and his rash army ; where thin air
Above the clouds will pine his entrails gross,
And famish him of breath, if not of bread !

To whom thus Michael. Justly thou abhorst
That son, who on the quiet state of men 80
Such trouble brought, affecting to subdue
Rational liberty ; yet know withal,
Since thy original lapse, true liberty
Is lost, which always with right reason dwells
Twinn'd, and from her hath no dividual being : 85
Reason in man obscured, or not obey'd,
Immediately inordinate desires,
And upstart passions, catch the government
From reason ; and to servitude reduce
Man, till then free. Therefore, since he permits 90
Within himself unworthy powers to reign
Over free reason, God, in judgment just,
Subjects him from without to violent lords :
Who oft as undeservedly intrall

His outward freedom : Tyranny must be ; 95
Though to the tyrant thereby no excuse.
Yet sometimes nations will incline so low
From virtue, which is reason, that no wrong,
But justice, and some fatal curse annex'd,
Deprives them of their outward liberty ; 100
Their inward lost : Witness the irreverent son
Of him who built the ark ; who, for the shame
Done to his father, heard this heavy curse,
“ *Servant of servants,*” on his vicious race.
Thus will this latter, as the former world, 105
Still tend from bad to worse ; till God at last,
Wearied with their iniquities, withdraw
His presence from among them, and avert
His holy eyes ; resolving from thenceforth
To leave them to their own polluted ways ; 110
And one peculiar nation to select
From all the rest, of whom to be invoked,
A nation from one faithful man to spring :
Him on this side Euphrates yet residing,
Bred up in idol-worship ; O, that men 115
(Canst thou believe ?) should be so stupid grown,
While yet the patriarch lived, who ’scaped the flood,
As to forsake the living God, and fall
To worship their own work in wood and stone
For Gods ! yet him God the Most High vouchsafes
To call by vision from his father’s house, 121
His kindred, and false Gods, into a land
Which he will show him ; and from him will raise
A mighty nation ; and upon him shower
His benediction so, that in his seed 125
All nations shall be blest ; he straight obeys,
Not knowing to what land, yet firm believes :
I see him, but thou canst not, with what faith
He leaves his Gods, his friends, and native soil,
Ur of Chaldeá, passing now the ford 130

To Haran ; after him a cumberous train
Of herds and flocks, and numerous servitude ;
Not wandering poor, but trusting all his wealth
With God, who call'd him, in a land unknown.
Canaan he now attains ; I see his tents 135
Pitch'd about Sechem, and the neighbouring plain
Of Moreh ; there by promise he receives
Gift to his progeny of all that land,
From Hamath northward to the Desert south ;
(Things by their names I call, though yet unnamed,)
From Hermon east to the great western Sea ; 141
Mount Hermon, yonder sea ; each place behold
In prospect, as I point them ; on the shore
Mount Carmel ; here, the double-founted stream,
Jordan, true limit eastward : But his sons 145
Shall dwell to Senir, that long ridge of hills.
This ponder, that all nations of the earth
Shall in his seed be bless'd : By that seed
Is meant thy great Deliverer, who shall bruise
The Serpent's head ; whereof to thee anon 150
Plainlier shall be reveal'd. This patriarch blest,
Whom faithful Abraham due time shall call,
A son, and of his son a grandchild, leaves ;
Like him in faith, in wisdom, and renown ;
The grandchild, with twelve sons increased, departs
From Canaan, to a land hereafter call'd 156
Egypt, divided by the river Nile ;
See where it flows, disgorging at seven mouths
Into the sea : To sojourn in that land
He comes, invited by a younger son 160
In time of dearth ; a son, whose worthy deeds
Raise him to be the second in that realm
Of Pharaoh : There he dies, and leaves his race
Growing into a nation ; and, now grown
Suspected to a sequent king, who seeks 165
To stop their overgrowth, as inmate guests

Instructed that to God is no access
Without Mediator, whose high office now 240
Moses in figure bears ; to introduce
One greater, of whose day he shall foretell,
And all the Prophets in their age the times
Of great Messiah shall sing. Thus, laws and rites
Establish'd, such delight hath God in Men 245
Obedient to his will, that he vouchsafes
Among them to set up his tabernacle,
The Holy One with mortal Men to dwell :
By his prescript a sanctuary is framed
Of cedar, overlaid with gold ; therein 250
An ark ; and in the ark his testimony,
The records of his covenant ; over these
A mercy-seat of gold, between the wings
Of two bright Cherubim ; before him burn
Seven lamps as in a zodiac representing 255
The heavenly fires ; over the tent a cloud
Shall rest by day, a fiery gleam by night,
Save when they journey, and at length they come,
Conducted by his Angel, to the land
Promised to Abraham and his seed : The rest 260
Were long to tell ! how many battles fought ;
How many kings destroy'd ; and kingdoms won ;
Or how the sun shall in mid Heaven stand still
A day entire, and night's due course adjourn,
Man's voice commanding, " Sun, in Gibeon stand,
" And thou moon in the vale of Aialon, 266
" Till Israel overcome !" so call the third
From Abraham, son of Isaac ; and from him
His whole descent, who thus shall Canaan win.
Here Adam interposed. O sent from Heaven, 270
Enlightener of my darkness, gracious things
Thou hast reveal'd ; those chiefly which concern
Just Abraham and his seed : now first I find
Mine eyes true-opening, and my heart much eased ;

Erewhile perplex'd with thoughts, what would become
Of me and all mankind : But now I see 276

His day, in whom all nations shall be blest ;
Favour unmerited by me, who sought
Forbidden knowledge by forbidden means.

This yet I apprehend not, why to those 280

Among whom God will deign to dwell on Earth,
So many and so various laws are given ;

So many laws argue so many sins
Among them ; how can God with such reside ?

To whom thus Michael. Doubt not but that sin
Will reign among them, as of thee begot ; 286

And therefore was law given them, to evince

Their natural pravity, by stirring up
Sin against law to fight : that when they see
Law can discover sin, but not remove, 290

Save by those shadowy expiations weak,
The blood of bulls and goats, they may conclude
Some blood more precious must be paid for Man ;

Just for unjust ; that, in such righteousness,
To them by faith imputed, they may find 295

Justification towards God, and peace
Of conscience, which the law by ceremonies
Cannot appease, nor Man the moral part
Perform, and not performing cannot live.

So law appears imperfect, and but given 300

With purpose to resign them, in full time,
Up to a better covenant, disciplined

From shadowy types to truth ; from flesh to spirit ;
From imposition of strict laws to free
Acceptance of large grace ; from servile fear 305

To filial ; works of law to works of faith.
And therefore shall not Moses, though of God

Highly beloved, being but the minister
Of law, his people into Canaan lead ;
But Joshua, whom the Gentiles Jesus call, 310

His living temples, built by faith to stand,
Their own faith, not another's? for, on earth,
Who against faith and conscience can be heard
Infallible? yet many will presume: 530
Whence heavy persecution shall arise
On all, who in the worship persevere
Of Spirit and truth; the rest, far greater part,
Will deem in outward rites and specious forms
Religion satisfied: Truth shall retire 535
Bestruck with slanderous darts, and works of faith
Rarely be found: so shall the world go on,
To good malignant, to bad men benign;
Under her own weight groaning; till the day
Appear of respiration to the just, 540
And vengeance to the wicked, at return
Of him so lately promised to thy aid,
The Woman's Seed; obscurely then foretold,
Now amplier known, thy Saviour and thy Lord,
Last, in the clouds, from Heaven to be reveal'd 545
In glory of the Father, to dissolve
Satan with his perverted world; then raise
From the conflagrant mass, purged and refined,
New Heavens, new Earth, ages of endless date,
Founded in righteousness, and peace, and love; 550
To bring forth fruits, joy, and eternal bliss."

He ended; and thus Adam last replied:
"How soon hath thy prediction, Seer blest,
Measured this transient world, the race of time,
Till time stand fix'd! Beyond is all abyss, 555
Eternity, whose end no eye can reach.
Greatly instructed I shall hence depart;
Greatly in peace of thought; and have my fill
Of knowledge, what this vessel can contain;
Beyond which was my folly to aspire. 560
Henceforth I learn, that to obey is best,
And love with fear the only God; to walk

As in his presence ; ever to observe
His providence, and on him sole depend,
Merciful over all his works, with good 565
Still overcoming evil, and by small
Accomplishing great things, by things deem'd weak
Subverting worldly strong, and worldly wise
By simply meek ; that suffering for truth's sake
Is fortitude to highest victory, 570
And, to the faithful, death the gate of life ;
Taught this by his example, whom I now
Acknowledge my Redeemer ever blest.
To whom thus also the Angel last replied :
“ This having learn'd, thou hast attain'd the sum 575
Of wisdom ; hope no higher, though all the stars
Thou knewst by name, and all the etherial powers,
All secrets of the deep, all Nature's works,
Or works of God in Heaven, air, earth, or sea,
And all the riches of this world enjoyedst, 580
And all the rule one empire ; only add
Deeds to thy knowledge answerable ; add faith,
Add virtue, patience, temperance, add love,
By name to come call'd charity, the soul
Of all the rest : then wilt thou not be loth 585
To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess
A Paradise within thee, happier far.
Let us descend now therefore from this top
Of speculation ; for the hour precise
Exacts our parting hence ; and see the guards, 590
By me encamp'd on yonder hill, expect
Their motion ; at whose front a flaming sword,
In signal of remove, waves fiercely round ;
We may no longer stay : go, waken Eve :
Her also I with gentle dreams have calm'd 595
Portending good, and all her spirits composed
To meek submission ; thou, at season fit,
Let her with thee partake what thou hast heard ;

Chiefly, what may concern her faith to know,
The great deliverance by her seed to come 600
(For by the Woman's seed) on all mankind;
That ye may live, which will be many days,
Both in one faith unanimous, though sad,
With cause for evils past; yet much more cheer'd
With meditation on the happy end. 606

He ended, and they both descend the hill;
Descended, Adam to the bower, where Eve
Lay sleeping, ran before, but found her waked;
And thus with words not sad she him received:

Whence thou returnst, and whither wentst, I know;
For God is also in sleep, and dreams advise, 611
Which he hath sent propitious, some great good
Presaging, since with sorrow and heart's distress
Wearied I fell asleep: But now lead on;
In me is no delay; with thee to go 615
Is to stay here; without thee here to stay,
Is to go hence unwillingly; thou to me
Art all things under Heaven, all places thou,
Who for my wilful crime art banish'd hence.
This further consolation yet secure 620
I carry hence; though all by me is lost,
Such favour I unworthy am vouchsafed,
By me the promised Seed shall all restore.

So spake our mother Eve, and Adam heard
Well pleased, but answer'd not; for now too nigh 625
The Arch-Angel stood; and, from the other hill
To their fix'd station, all in bright array
The Cherubim descended; on the ground
Gliding meteorous, as evening mist.
Risen from a river o'er the marish glides, 630
And gathers ground fast at the labourer's heel
Homeward returning. High in front advanced,
The brandish'd sword of God before them blazed
Fierce as a comet; which with torrid heat,

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And vapour as the Libyan air adust, 635
Began to parch that temperate clime; whereat
In either hand the hastening Angel caught
Our lingering parents, and to the eastern gate
Led them direct, and down the cliff as fast
To the subjected plain; then disappear'd. 640
They, looking back, all the eastern side beheld
Of Paradise, so late their happy seat,
Waved over by that flaming brand, the gate
With dreadful faces throng'd, and fiery arms:
Some natural tears they dropt, but wiped them soon.
The world was all before them, where to choose 646
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide.
They, hand in hand, with wandering steps and slow,
Through Eden took their solitary way.

FINIS.

BURTON'S

ANATOMY OF MELANCHOLY.

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